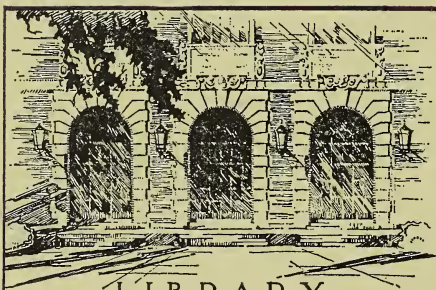


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HISTORY  
OF  
CALHOUN COUNTY

BY  
- GEORGE W. CARPENTER -



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## PREFACE

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Calhoun County is one of the few counties of the state not yet represented by a volume recounting its history. In 1876, John Lammy, a teacher and county official, delivered a speech at the Centennial celebration in Hardin. This speech was printed and it is sometimes referred to as the "Lammy History of Calhoun County". But it was only a thousand words in length and failed even to mention many of the important phases of the county's history.

The present account is written to give the general reader of the student of history a broad outline of the county's development. No attempt has been made to exhaust any phase of the subject. Some events are explained from the standpoint of cause and effect, while others are merely stated. But it is the hope of the writer that this account will serve as a basis for more complete studies by students of Calhoun history.

The writer wishes to thank the many teachers, ministers, editors, and others who sent information and material on many different subjects.

GEORGE W. CARPENTER

Hardin, Illinois

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## CHAPTER I

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### The Indians, The First Inhabitants

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#### THE TRIBES IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois Confederation of Indians was divided into five tribes. They were the Peorias, living near the present site of Peoria; the Cahokias and the Tarmarias, living about Cahokia; the Kaskaskias near Kaskaskia, and the Mitchagamies near the Great Lakes.

The area of the original country of the Illinois Indians included most of the territory now within the State of Illinois. But this territory was continually reduced by wars with the Sioux and Dakota Indians from west of the Mississippi River, and with the Sacs, Foxes, and the Kickapoos who lived north of the Illinois Confederation. From the east came the Iroquois, who were the fiercest of all of the Indian warriors. The power of the Illinois Indians was decreasing when the French first came to Illinois.

#### WARS WITH THE IROQUOIS

The raids of the Iroquois are the most important from the standpoint of Calhoun history because they effected the Peoria Indians, and because of the massacres that occurred in this county. Some years before 1680, the Iroquois sent an expedition against the Illinois Indians and forced them to flee from their territory. The Iroquois returned to their home in the east and the Illinois tribes returned to their villagees along the Illinois River.

In 1680, the Iroquois returned and made another attack upon the Illinois tribes and this time the results were very disastrous to the Illinois Indians. One of the best accounts of this attack is told by LaSalle, who was passing through the Illinois country in search of his lieutenant, Tonti. As LaSalle and his companions neared Starved Rock they found everything in ruins. Instead of the flourishing village LaSalle says:

"Their town had vanished and the meadow was black with fire. Parts of bodies and charred buildings remained. Even the graves had been robbed, and the bodies flung from the scaffolds, where they had been placed."

### THE MASSACRE IN SOUTHERN CALHOUN

As LaSalle continued down the river, he found six places where the Illinois Indians had camped, and on the opposite side of the river, six places where the Iroquois had also camped. He realized that the Illinois Indians were fleeing and were being pursued by their old enemies. When he neared the mouth of the Illinois River, he found that part of the Illinois tribe had been overtaken. Parkman, the historian, gives us the following description which he wrote after reading LaSalle's diary:

"As the French drew near to the mouth of the Illinois, they saw a meadow to the right, and, on the farthest verge, several human figures erect, yet motionless. They landed and cautiously examined the place. The long grass was trampled down and all around were strewn the relics of the hideous orgies which formed the ordinary sequel of an Iroquois victory. The figures they had seen were the half consumed bodies of women still bound to the stakes where they had been tortured. Other sights there were, too revolting for record. All the remains were of women and children; the men, it seems, had fled, and left them to their fate. The French descended the river and soon came to the mouth."

This massacre, the date of which was the last week of November, 1680, took place in the southern part of the county, about a mile above the present site of the Deer Plain ferry, at a place now known as Marshall's Landing. Many skulls, parts of skeletons, and weapons have been found near this spot in the last seventy-five years by farmers who were plowing the land.

M. DuChesneau, a Canadian official, tells about this flight of the Illinois Indians in an account which he wrote in December, 1681. He says that about 1200 men, women, and children were killed by the Iroquois on this expedition, and that the survivors of the Illinois tribes crossed the Mississippi River.

### THE CENSUS OF 1736 AND 1800

A part of the Illinois tribes returned to Illinois after their defeat at the hands of the Iroquois. They were not bothered again by the Iroquois, but the Indians of the north made war upon them year after year. When the French government took a census of the tribes of the west, in 1736, they found that the Illinois tribes had been reduced to about 600 warriors.

In an official letter to the Secretary of War, of date of March 22, 1814, General William Henry Harrison says:

"When I was appointed Governor of the Indiana Territory (1800), these once powerful tribes were reduced to 30 warriors, of whom 25 were of the Kaskaskias, 4 of the Peorias, and a single Metchigamian."



## NUMBER OF INDIANS IN CALHOUN

Thus we can see there were few Indians in the western part of Illinois when the first settlers arrived. One early Calhoun settler said, "The Indians were as thick as blackberries," but that was probably an exaggeration. There is little evidence to show that more than a few hundred Indians ever lived in this county at any one time.

There are many Indian mounds in different parts of the county and in recent years these have been opened and skeletons and weapons taken from them. But these mounds do not prove that there was a large permanent Indian population since they might have been built over a period of several hundred years.

The early explorers said that the region that is now a part of Calhoun County was supplied with wild game in great abundance, and there is the possibility that many Indians that lived in the prairie section of the state came to this region to hunt and fish at certain seasons of the year, but were not permanent residents. We can be safe in saying that there were few, if any, Indians living in the county when the first white settlers arrived. Those that were seen by the settlers were just bands that were passing through the country on hunting expeditions or Indians who came to get supplies from the white traders.

## KIDNAPPING OF CALHOUN CHILDREN

There are just two cases of the Indians bothering the first settlers of the county. One of these cases was the kidnapping of a three year old son of Jacob Pruden. Mr. Pruden settled in the county in 1829 near the old Squier place, about five miles below the present site of Hardin. The boy was recaptured from the Indians five days after he had been taken, and had not been harmed.

Another case was the kidnapping of Joe DeGerlia, the son of Antoine DeGerlia, Sr., the first settler in the "French Hollow" neighborhood. Mr. DeGerlia had not yet finished building his home, when his small son, Joe, was taken. Nearly thirty years later a man who was acquainted with the history of the DeGerlia family was traveling among the tribes of the Indian Territory, and there he heard the story of a white boy that had been kidnapped many years before from a place not far from where the Illinois River flows into the Mississippi. He investigated the story and found that the white boy was Joe DeGerlia of the Calhoun family. Joe had been taught the Indian language and had grown to manhood among the remnants of the tribe that had taken him away with them on their way to the southwest. Joe returned to Calhoun, married, and lived in the "French Hollow" neighborhood for a number of years. But he was never satisfied in the county and finally he took his family and returned to the Indian Territory. He spent the remainder of his life there and his descendants are living in that section of the country today.

### INDIAN BATTLES IN SOUTHERN CALHOUN

In 1813 the Indian tribes of the northern part of the state went on the war path and some of the fighting was done in the southern part of Calhoun. The fighting was between the Indians who came down the Mississippi River and soldiers from the fort which was built in Missouri, opposite the present site of West Point ferry, in Richwoods precinct. In the summer of 1813 from sixty to eighty Indians appeared near this place and a battle took place between them and thirteen soldiers who had crossed the river from the fort. Twelve of the soldiers were killed, the only survivor being John Shaw who later became a prominent official in Calhoun County.

In the summer of 1814, the Indians again appeared in that neighborhood and fought with the soldiers and settlers from the Missouri side of the river. On this expedition the Indians were accompanied by Black Hawk, who later became famous in an Indian war in the northern part of the state. We have no record of these Indians bothering any of the settlers in the lower part of the county. Their whole attention seemed to have been directed against the soldiers and settlers in Missouri.

Although most of the Illinois Indians had moved from the territory between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers before 1800, they still had a claim to the land. In 1803 part of the tribes ceded their rights to the government, but it was not until 1816 that the last of the tribes signed the agreement which gave the land to the government of the United States.



## CHAPTER II

### Early Explorers

#### START OF MARQUETTE-JOLIET EXPEDITION

The first white men to visit the soil now incorporated in the boundary of Calhoun County were Father Marquette, Louis Joliet, and their companions. Their expedition crossed what is now the state of Wisconsin early in the summer of 1673. On June 17, they reached the mouth of the Wisconsin River and started down the Mississippi. The main purpose of the trip was to determine whether the river emptied into the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean. They continued down the river and may have stopped on the western side of what is now Calhoun County, but if they did, they made no note of it in their journals. On the 17th day of July, they reached the mouth of the Arkansas River, and here they learned from the Indians that the Mississippi flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. They then started back but found traveling difficult because of the current of the river.

#### THE LANDING AT GRAFTON

Both Marquette and Joliet kept a diary on the trip, but most of writings of Joliet were lost when one of the canoes was overturned. The diary of Marquette, part of which is written in French and part in Latin, has been preserved and from it we get much valuable information concerning the landings of the party. The town of Grafton, in Jersey County, has erected a statue, just above the town, to mark the place where Marquette and Joliet are supposed to have landed. They base their claims upon the fact that Marquette mentions that they entered the mouth of the Illinois River early in the morning, which would mean that the party had camped somewhere below the mouth during the previous evening. The territory about Grafton is high and a desirable place to camp, while the land opposite, on the Missouri side is low and swampy and would have made an undesirable camping place.

#### THE LANDING IN CALHOUN

The next place marked by local historians as a stopping point of the expedition is a place now called "Perrin's Ledge", located several miles above Kampsville. Their claims seem to be much better supported by facts than those claims relating to the previous stop in

the Grafton region. From Marquette's diary we get several facts of importance. He says: "We entered the mouth of the Illinois River very early in the morning", and further on he says: "We spent the night with some friendly Indians." From other parts of the diary we find that the party was traveling about twenty-five miles a day up the Mississippi River, but it is likely that they made better time on the Illinois River because there would be less current. If they were traveling at a rate of slightly better than twenty-five miles a day and entered the river early in the morning (this was the last week in August) they would have been in the Kampsville neighborhood by evening.

At the place now called "Perrin's Ledge" several large Indian mounds are to be found and the first settlers in this part of the county found evidences to show that a small Indian village had been located here. Again the place marked by the monument is much better as a camping place than the opposite side of the river. Here at the ledge, the bluff is very near to the water and the rocks project themselves in such a manner that they can be seen for miles down the river. From a distance they have the appearance of the walls of a castle. There can be little doubt that it was at this place that the Marquette-Joliet party stopped for the night.

### LA SALLE'S VISIT

The visit of LaSalle and his party of explorers to the southern part of the county in the fall of 1680 has already been mentioned. Thus Calhoun can claim the distinction of being visited by three of the most famous of French Explorers in America.

### OTHER EXPLORERS

About 1800 a Federal Government Expedition passed through the county, exploring and surveying. Some of the men were so impressed with the land lying between the two rivers, that they later returned to make it their permanent home.

Major Stephen H. Long, on a trip down the Mississippi River in August, 1817, said he "took an excursion across the peninsula" and reported to the government the number of settlements that he found.

## CHAPTER III

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### Early Settlers

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#### THE FIRST PERMANENT WHITE SETTLER

The first white settler to make his home in what is now Calhoun was a man named O'Neal. He came in the year 1801 and settled in Point Precinct at the Two Branches. Although his name might lead us to think otherwise, one account says that he was a French trapper and had made his way there from Acadia.

He lived in Point Precinct a number of years before any other settlers came to that region, and when they did come he refused to mingle with them. He lived in a small cave which he had dug, and which was located about a quarter of a mile from the Mississippi River. He continued to live in this cave until his death in 1842, and after that he was referred to as "The Hermit" due to the fact that he would not visit the other settlers or allow them to come to his place. In 1850, Solomon Lammy, who then owned the farm upon which the cave was located, dug up the boards of the floor and leveled the sides on which large saplings were then growing.

#### THE FRENCH SETTLERS

The next settlers were French trappers and some half breeds, who started a colony about a mile above the Deep Plain Ferry, on the Illinois River, in the southern part of the county. They remained until about 1815 when they were driven out by the very high water.

Another French settlement was located at Cap au Gris (which means Cape of Grit or Grindstone). This place was located at the present site of West Point Ferry, in Richwoods Precinct. The French settlers who lived here came sometime after 1800 and by the year 1811 there were 20 families, who had a small village on the bank of the river, and cultivated a common field of about 500 acres. This field was located on the level land about a mile from the site of their town. One writer said that these families were driven away by the Indians in 1814, but there is some doubt as to the accuracy of the statement as John Shaw who took part in battles near the place and who mentions all attacks made on Missouri people makes no mention of any harm coming to the settlers at Cap au Gris.

### OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

In the year 1811 Major Roberts arrived and settled near the present site of Brussels, on a farm later known as the "Henry Kiel place". He made the journey from Ohio in a keel boat, and landed at the present site of Bloom's landing, on the Illinois River.

John Shaw arrived in 1821. He had taken part in the Indian wars along the Mississippi River and had become acquainted with all of the territory between that river and the Illinois. He purchased much land in the county in the neighborhood of Gilead, Guilford, Belleview, and Hamburg. His decision to come to Calhoun was quite an important one, as will be explained later.

Joshua Twichell arrived in May, 1822, with a large family. He came in a keel boat and landed at Coles Grove (now called Gilead). He had been a blacksmith in New York state and after coming here he engaged in his trade at Coles Grove for about a half year and then moved to the present site of Brussels where he started a shop. His son, Chesley, brought iron from St. Louis in a canoe and this iron was afterwards used in making the first iron plow that was ever used in the county. Mr. Twichell also ironed the first wagon used in the county. This wagon was made by Mr. Twichell for his son-in-law, Major Roberts.

Samuel Smith emigrated from Pittsburg in 1822 and built a house in a field that was later owned by Marion Todd, and which was located near the Point Pleasant School, in Point Precinct. About the same time the Mettz family moved into the county and settled at the present site of Brussels. Mr. Mettz cleared a patch of land and constructed his home near a large spring.

In 1826 Robert Andrews, the grandfather of Thomas Andrews, came from Detroit where he had been one of the first settlers. He settled in what was known as the "Cresswell Settlement." Nathaniel Shaw came in 1821 and settled where the old Schulze homestead is now located, southeast of Brussels.

Captain Nixon and Ben Carrico settled along the Mississippi, near the Jacob Auer farm, in Point Precinct. Asa Carrico settled on the farm now owned by Mrs. Agnes Carpenter at Deer Plain. Another influential citizen of early Calhoun was Captair Marcus Aderton who owned a large tract of land near the Robert Andrews place. Some of the other families that settled in the Brussels neighborhood in the early days were the Roys, Marshalls, Stiles, Lates, Clines, and Greambas.

Judge Ebenezer Smith arrived in Calhoun on the 10th day of May, 1819. He said there were only five settlements in the county at the time. He settled south of the present site of Hardin, and he is said to have been the first man to set out an orchard in the county. The small orchard was started a short time after his arrival in the county.



Mr. Smith found a trading post in the neighborhood which was kept by a French-Canadian. In order to be free from the danger of drunken Indians in the community, he bought the trading post, and then destroyed it.

John Ingersol arrived in the county about 1823 and settled at Guilford, five miles south of the present site of Hardin. A few years later he moved to the spring south of the A. C. Squier place. The Ingersol home was one of the first places in the county that was used as a place where church services were held.

Jacob Pruden arrived in the county in 1829 and bought the farm that is now owned by the Mortland family. A Mr. Still, who sold the farm to Pruden, was afraid to stay in the neighborhood saying "the place was full of wolves and rattlesnakes". Charles Squiers came to the county in 1833 and in the spring of 1834 Pruden and he built a school house in Mortland Hollow.

There were other early settlers who came before or shortly after 1830, but most of them will be mentioned in connection with the founding of certain villages and communities.

### THE MILITARY LANDS

The territory between the Mississippi and the Illinois Rivers was known to the early settlers as the "Military Lands" or the "Military Tract". The government of the United States set aside three and a half million acres of land lying between these two rivers, the land to be given to soldiers who served in the War of 1812. The soldiers who enlisted before December 10, 1814 were given 160 acres of land, while those enlisting after that date were given 320 acres. Most of the land was surveyed in 1816 and 1817 but the rush of settlers did not begin until 1823. Much of the land in this section of the state was owned by speculators and other people living in the east and this hindered the settlement of the region. Many of the soldiers who fought in the war, claimed the land that was due them, but immediately sold the land to speculators. In 1833 there were 139 pieces of land in Calhoun County that were to be sold for taxes, and but 34 of these pieces of land were then owned by the people to whom they had been assigned.

By studying the lists of the early settlers and the lives of the parents of the people who lived in the county at a later time, we find that very few of the first settlers were men who had taken part in the War of 1812. But due to the fact that the government had set aside this land for the soldiers, it became well known and caused other settlers to know about the region and finally settle in it themselves.

## CHAPTER IV

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### The Formation of Calhoun County

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The territory now included with the bounds of Colhoun County has changed hands many times and has been under the control of many different governments and many units of governments. Until the close of the French and Indian War (1763) the territory in what is now Illinois was claimed by both the French and the English. But the Treaty of Paris in 1763 gave the land to the English, and much of it was under the control of the English Colonies along the Atlantic seaboard.

While the American Revolution was in progress, General George Rogers Clark wrestled the territory now embraced within the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio from the British Government. In the spring of 1779, Col. John Todd, commissioned by the state of Virginia as its lieutenant, went to Vincennes and Kaskaskia and organized Clark's conquests into a county of Virginia, to which was given the name of "Illinois County."

#### CHANGES BETWEEN 1790 AND 1821

In 1790 the region now included in Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory and the two counties in Illinois were St. Clair and Knox. In 1801 the region became a part of the Indian Territory and in 1809 the Illinois Territory was formed, and continued until 1818 when Illinois became a state.

From 1801 to 1812 the territory now included within Calhoun County was a part of St. Clair County. It then became a part of Madison County and remained in that county until the formation of Pike County in 1821. For the next four years it was a part of Pike, and then it was made a separate county.

#### A PART OF PIKE COUNTY

When Pike County was organized in 1821 it included all of the territory between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers as far north as the present Wisconsin line and as far east at Lake Michigan. The county seat of this vast strip of territory was located at Coles Grove (now called Gilead). The first Probate Court to be held west of the Illinois River was held at Coles Grove on May 23, 1821. The first

Circuit Court to be held in the region was also held at Coles Grove (October, 1821), and John Reynolds who was later a governor of Illinois served as the judge. The first case that came before the court was a divorce case, the second a murder case. Two Indians had been arrested in the northern part of the state for the killing of another Indian and they were brought to Coles Grove for trial. The court appointed two interpreters, since the Indians could not speak English, and also appointed two lawyers to defend the Indians. The jury found one of the Indians not guilty, and he was released. The other Indian was found guilty and he was fined twenty-five cents and sentenced to one day in jail. The prisoner broke out of jail and escaped the first night, but he probably had little difficulty in doing so as the jail had been hurriedly constructed from an old rail pen. During the four years that Calhoun was a part of Pike County a number of men who later became county officials in this county, served as officials in Pike County. In this way they received much valuable training that aided them in performing their official duties in Calhoun.

### CALHOUN COUNTY ORGANIZED

The southern part of Pike County was cut off, by an act of the Legislature of Illinois, and made into a separate county. The new county was named Calhoun in honor of John C. Calhoun one of the greatest of the southern statesmen at that time. The act of the Legislature was approved on January 10, 1825. George A. Allen and Gershom Flagg were appointed to select a county seat for the new county.

On January 27, 1825 the two men mentioned above met and selected Coles Grove as the county seat, but they recommended that the name of the village be changed to Gilead. The change was made and it has retained that name ever since.

### THE FIRST ELECTION

The first election was held on February 2, 1825 at the homes of James Gilman and John Bolter. The following officers were elected: James Nixon, Ebenezer Smith, and Asa Carrico, County Commissioners; Bigelow Fenton, Sheriff; James Levin, Coroner; A. M. Jenkins, Circuit Clerk; A. M. Jenkins, first Notary Public. Mr. Jenkins was also appointed County Clerk.

The first act of the County Commissioners was to confirm the selection of Gilead as the County Seat. They also accepted the eighty acres of land and the twelve lots in Gilead which was given to them by John Shaw. The first meeting of the County Commissioners was held on March 8, 1825, at Gilead, and two of the Commissioners, James Nixon and Ebenezer Smith were present.

It is interesting to note that the Commissioner system of county government was adopted for the new county. Under this system the general powers of control are placed in the hands of three County Commissioners elected from the county at large for a term of three years, one being elected each year. The early records make no mention as to the reasons for adopting this form of government. Some of the early settlers may have lived for a few years in states or counties that had a similar type of organization and thus may have been familiar with its advantages. Then, too, the form of the county may have had something to do with the adoption of this type. Calhoun is so irregular in shape that it would have been impossible to carve out townships that would have been of the same size.

### THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST LICENSE

On March 24, 1825 the first marriage license was issued, the contracting parties being Samuel Cresswell and Eliza Hewitt. The Commissioners Records for the same date show that "Samuel Still received permission to run a ferry across the Illinois River at the mouth of Apple Creek. The rates are to be as follows:

- Single person, 12¢
- Single horse, 12¢
- Cattle, under one year, 12¢
- Each hog, 3¢
- Two-wheeled vehicle, 37¢
- Four-wheeled vehicle, 50¢".

During the same year John Shaw received permission to operate a ferry across the Mississippi River opposite Clarksville, Mo., and John Bolter received permission for a ferry across the Mississippi at Little Cap au Gris, near the present site of the Golden Eagle ferry.

Another one of the first acts of the Commissioners was to let the contract for the building of a jail at Gilead. The building was to be twelve feet square, eight feet high, and to be made of hewn timber. The contract was let to Daniel Church for forty dollars, and the county to furnish the materials. The contract also stated that the building was to be completed by the first Monday of June, 1825.

At the same session, Levi Roberts made an application to run and operate a tavern at Gilead. He was granted a license, the fee being two dollars. The following rates were to be followed:

- "Meals, 25¢
- Keeping horse overnight, 25¢
- Lodging, 6¢
- Whiskey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, 12¢".

In the period of 1825 to 1840 we find a number of unusual entries concerning different departments of the county government. One of these has to do with the keeping of a stray pen. Such a pen was



erected, in Gilead in 1834, as a place to keep stray animals that were going about the county doing damage. They were kept in the pen until the owner called and identified them. Each farmer had a certain brand or mark that was registered in the office of the County Clerk. By means of these brands the farmer could prove ownership to the animal. If no one claimed the animal, it would be sold, the expenses of sale and feeding would be deducted, and the balance turned over to the Treasurer of the county. The stay pen was usually in charge of the Sheriff. One record shows that John McDonald, the Sheriff, had charge of the pen and received \$1.75 a week for the work.

Another interesting and amusing fact is that the first two jails that were built at Gilead were not strong enough to keep the prisoners from escaping. We find dozens of records in the period before 1846 where persons were paid so much a night to guard the jail. In 1845 a runaway negro, probably a slave from Missouri, was captured and placed in the jail. The county had to pay a guard fifty cents a night to watch the jail, during the period of forty days that the negro was kept there. The county officials and the citizens probably kept watch over the jail in the day time, so no regular guard was maintained.

In 1830, the county decided to build a new brick court house at Gilead. The contract was given to Benjamin Munn, and he completed the building in 1832. The total cost of the building was \$1,600. In 1835 a new jail was constructed by John Huff. He received \$299 for his labor and for the material that he used in the building.

## CHAPTER V

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### Early Villages and Communities

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#### BRUSSELS

The first settler on the present site of Brussels was John Mettz who came in 1822. Joshua Twichell moved from Coles Grove in the same year and started a blacksmith's shop.

Several German families, from the province of Hanover, came to the Brussels vicinity in 1843. By 1850 a number of Irish had arrived and settled to the south and east of the town. In the 50's and the 60's many German people came to the neighborhood; those belonging to the Lutheran faith settled to the west and southwest of the present village of Brussels, while most of the Germans belonging to the Catholic faith settled within the limits of the village and to the east and south.

The French and Irish that had settled near Brussels had moved away to a considerable extent, and by 1910 less than a dozen families of them could be found in a ten miles radius of Brussels.

#### BATCHTOWN

The village of Batchtown had several names before the present one was adopted. The village together with the surrounding farms was known as "Richwoods" in the fifties. Later, the people speaking of the place frequently called it "Sam White's", after the leading merchant of the county. Later it was called "Batchelder ville", probably in honor of William Batchelder, who was living in the village in the sixties. He had been a Justice of the Peace, a merchant, and an owner and operator of a corn mill, which was later changed to a flour mill. In 1879 a post-office was established and the official name became Batchtown.

We cannot discuss the early history of Batchtown without mentioning the name of Samuel White. Mr. White, a native of Missouri, came to Calhoun in 1851. He attended the district school at Batchtown, McKendree College, and a business college. When he was 21 (in 1866) he sold the property that he had inherited from his father and invested the \$2,500 for goods for a store which he started at Gilead. In 1868 he moved to Batchtown. Here he erected a two-story

building, 45 feet across the front and 75 feet deep. He filled it with a complete stock of groceries, dry goods, shoes, and hardware. He was also a dealer in farm machinery.

Mr. White erected a flour mill in Batchtown and the farmers from the entire southern and central part of the county brought grain to this mill. This mill was remodeled in 1878 and 1890. His store was the largest and best known in the county in the period of 1870 to 1890.

Another merchant who was doing business in Batchtown, but before the time of Sam White, was Thomas J. Douglas.

The Lowe family came to Batchtown in 1866. John Lowe was School Treasurer for fourteen years and his son, Austin, has succeeded him and served for many years. Austin also served as Justice of the Peace for many years.

Among the other early settlers in the Batchtown neighborhood were Robert C. Beaty, who came in the 40's or early 50's; David Davis Cockrell, who came in the early 60's; Dr. James D. Douglas, who came to Richwoods about 1855 and practiced medicine; Justus Franke, who sailed from Germany in 1866 and came to Calhoun two years later; William H. Smith, who came in 1843; and A. C. Wilson, who settled in the county in 1849. Mr. Wilson formerly owned the land upon which Batchtown is now built.

### GILEAD

In the year 1822, Pike County included all of the territory from the mouth of the Illinois River up to the present Wisconsin line, and to Lake Michigan. At the election of that year there were just three places where the inhabitants of that vast strip of territory might vote and one of those places was Coles Grove. As has been mentioned before the first court in Pike County was held here. In 1823 when the county seat was moved to Atlas, Coles Grove remained a voting place.

When the town was chosen as the county seat of Calhoun County in 1825, the name was changed to Gilead. One of the principal reasons for its importance in the early days was because it was the home of John Shaw, who was probably the best known Calhoun citizen in the days before the Civil War.

Shaw had taken part in the Indian wars in 1813 and had settled in Gilead in the early days. In speaking of his coming to Calhoun, Shaw said:

"In the early part of 1821, I commenced clearing and setting up a farm between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, at a point where Gilead is now located. Year after year I extended my farming interests until I cultivated 1200 acres of land in one year and had nearly 400 head of cattle."

Shaw lived at Gilead for some time, started a ferry across the Mississippi River at Clarksville in 1825, and about 1830 he settled at the present site of Hamburg. He had been a member of the Legislature before Calhoun was organized as a county and he probably used his influence in having Gilead made the county seat.

Gilead became a town of importance when it was made the county seat. In 1837, a book that contained a description of all towns in the state, had the following to say about Gilead:

"Gilead has two stores and a dozen families. The court house is of brick, two stories, 30 feet square, and finished outside."

A post-office was established in Gilead and a report made to the government in 1831 shows that the business done by the Gilead office was greater than the combined business of the other two offices in the county, at Hamburg and Belleview.

During the first two weeks of January, 1847, the court house at Gilead was destroyed by fire, but all of the county records seem to have been saved, probably because several of the county officers had their offices in another building. A small house located on the village square was rented from Daniel T. Simpson as a meeting place for the County Commissioners. On January 18, the Commissioners were considering the rebuilding of the court house, but on February 23, they decided that an election should be held to see if Gilead should remain the county seat or if some other town in the county should be chosen. At this meeting it was decided that Hamburg should be the temporary county seat.

The Wilkinson, Plummerts, and Hapers settled in the neighborhood of Gilead at an early date and played an important part in the building of the community. In 1825 Jacob Crader and his son, Samuel Crader, moved into the Salt Spring Hollow. The Byrds, Wises, Schells, Pillersons, and Stiles arrived soon after. Most of these families came from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in covered wagons, and all, with the exception of the Stiles family, settled north of Gilead.

In 1929, Jacob Crader moved to a point six miles northeast of Gilead and built two water power corn mills. In the same year Samuel Crader moved from Gilead and settled in Indian Creek, where he built a blacksmith's shop and a water power mill.

All of the land upon which the village of Hamburg is now located was once owned by John Shaw. He moved to this land sometime in the late 20's, and in the year 1830 a post-office was established. Shaw was appointed postmaster, a position that he held for 23 years. In 1834 the town site was surveyed by James Shaw, a civil engineer and a brother of John Shaw. In 1834 the town was described, in an emigrants' guide, in the following words:

"Hamburg, a landing on the Mississippi River in Calhoun County, and the residence of John Shaw, Esq., ten miles northwest of Gilead.



The landing is said to be good, and the bank high. There is a post-office by the same name."

Mrs. Caroline Dewey, an early settler, in speaking of the town in the early days, said:

"Sometime during the latter part of 1840 or 1841, my father sold his place and moved to Hamburg. It was quite a little village at that time. There were a couple of stores and a saloon or two. Lumbering was carried on at that time and this made Hamburg a lively place. My father bought a lot close to the river, and built a house upon the lot. We lived there at the time of the launching of the steamboat that was built by John Shaw, the pioneer citizen of the village and its founder."

John Shaw and his steamboat have long been a mystery to the people of Calhoun. He built this boat at Hamburg and spent most of his money in the enterprise. He had people from miles around bring their surplus produce to Hamburg to be shipped to the market down the river. John Lammy, in his short history of the county, said:

"Shaw considered St. Louis too small a place for the patronage of his boat, so he steamed on down the river to New Orleans, from whence it appears he never came back."

At any rate, Mr. Lammy, who was sheriff of the county, did not know what became of Shaw. In 1891, Percy Epler in one of his articles on Calhoun County that appeared in a Chicago paper, said:

". . . and he loaded his boat and steamed down the Mississippi. This was the last seen of John Shaw. Whether he succeeded in selling the cargo, or whether the nameless boat fell into the hands of the government is not known to this day."

Recently the writer of this booklet discovered some of the writings of Shaw in the Wisconsin Historical Collection that were written after he disappeared from Calhoun. In one of articles, Shaw mentions the steamboat.

"But in 1841", he says, "I was induced to build a steamboat, and it was the first one on the river above St. Louis, and it bore my name by special desire of my friends. And the total loss of the boat a year after, caused me a loss of \$80,000. This so broke me up that in 1845, I came to Wisconsin, . . . and finally located at St. Marie."

Hamburg was selected to serve as the county seat in 1847, when the court house had been destroyed at Gilead. The first meeting of the County Commissioners was held on March 16, 1847. Only two Commissioners were present as James Guy, one of the Commissioners,, had died sometime between the meeting of February 23rd, and this meeting.

The Commissioners decided to use a house, formerly occupied by John Shaw as a store, as a voting place and a place where official business might be conducted. On March 18th, Stephen Farrow was granted a license to run a ferry across the Illinois River at Farrowtown (later called Kampsville).

Augustus Bartell was granted a license to run a ferry at Hamburg and was allowed to charge the same rates as the ferry at Clarks-ville.

On August 12, 1847, the people of Hamburg presented a petition to the County Commissioners asking them to refrain from moving the county seat over to Child's Landing, but this place was selected in spite of the objections of the Hamburg people.

The last meeting of the County Commissioners at Hamburg was held September 8, 1847. At this meeting the sale of the old court house and the old Square at Gilead was ordered.

The first settler in the neighborhood of Hamburg was Mr. Mozier who settled north of the present site of the town and near what is now Mozier Landing. In 1829 Samuel Crader settled in the Indian Creek neighborhood. Among the other early settlers were Abner Gresham, Wesley Bovee, Louis and Jackson Swarnes, Asher Squiers, C. C. Squiers, Miltin Stone, Mr. Wineland, Mr. Dorr, Louis Puterbaugh, S. H. Stone, I. N. Jackson, William Phillips, I. J. Varner, H. D. Ruyle, Charles Edwards, Hewt Long, Alfred Carnes, John and William Lammy, Anton Dirksmeyer, Rotger Freesmeyer, Bradford Gresham, William Poor, Charles Schlieper, Sr, and Silas Wilson.

### HARDIN

The first settler at what is now Hardin was Dr. William Terry. He stopped at the home of Ebenezer Smith on his arrival in Calhoun and then built a house near the present site of the Town Hall in Hardin. The place was known as "Terry's Landing" until the arrival of Benjamin Childs in 1835. Mr. Childs purchased the land from Terry and from that time until the place was made the county seat, it was known as "Childs' Landing".

Mr. Childs built a home and engaged in the mercantile business. He also operated the landing and shipped much cordwood, staves, and lumber to the St. Louis market. The third house to be built at Childs' Landing was constructed by James Dewey. He cut the trees in the bottom opposite Kampsville and rafted them down the river. He landed the raft at Childs' Landing on the 4th day of March, 1844.

It was not until the construction of the county buildings that Childs' Landing became important. An early writer in speaking of the changing of the county seat said:

"When the Court House and the jail burned at Gilead there was much rivalry to see what town should be the capital of the county. Gilead, Hamburg, and Childs' Landing were the ones desiring it. Benj. J. Childs offered five acres of land and fifty thousand bricks if the county seat were moved to his landing. In order to cinch the thing, he gave a barbecue and free dinner to everybody, and I was one of those everybodies who took advantage of the free dinner. When the votes were counted, Childs' Landing had more votes than the combined vote of the other two points."

As was mentioned before, the Hamburg people objected to the election and presented a petition to the Commissioners. The clerk of the Commissioners Court summarized the petition as follows:

"The citizens of Hamburg and adjacent neighborhood presented a petition remonstrating against any action being taken by this court in regard to their taking any steps toward the building of a court house at Childs' Landing, setting forth in said petition that said landing in the last election obtained a majority by fraudulent means. The court upon consideration adjudged that they had nothing to do in the matter of the said petition, and that the petitioners had leave to withdraw the said petition."

On August 12, 1847, the Commissioners agreed that the County Seat should be at Childs' Landing "for it would be more satisfactory to the citizens, generally," and that the Commissioners should "cause the same to be laid off into a town, as also a Public Square, for the purpose of erecting a court house thereon." At the same meeting the Commissioners agree to meet at Childs' Landing on the 26th of August, 1847.

The five acres of land given by Mr. Childs' was the land upon which most of the business houses at Hardin now stand. Part of the land was reserved as a place where the public buildings might be erected, and the remainder was divided into lots and sold to the highest bidder. The person purchasing the lots could have either six or twelve months to pay for the land. The money received from the sale of the lots was used in constructing the public buildings.

One of the first buildings to be erected was the court house.. It was to be 36 by 30 feet, two stories high, and made of brick. In December, 1847, the contract was let for \$1,199. In September, 1848, the contractor, William D. Hamilton, notified the court that he had completed the court house. The next building of importance was the jail, which was to be 32 by 20 feet, and contain a strong cell. The lowest bidder was B. W. Hamilton, and the amount of the bid was \$1,275. The work was done by sub-contractors, Benjamin Childs and William D. Hamilton. The jail was completed in 1850.

The name of the new county seat was changed to "Hardin" in 1847, but the Commissioners Records do not state the reason why this name was chosen, although they gave their approval to the name. Mrs. Caroline Dewey, whose husband had been living at Childs' Landing since 1844, gives the following explanation for the name of the town:

"The town was laid out in the year 1847, and the name Hardin was selected in honor of Col. John J. Hardin. At the outbreak of the Mexican War, he was commissioned Colonel of the first Illinois Volunteers, and was killed while leading a charge, early in the year 1847. The horse from which he fell was shipped to some point up the river that spring on the steamer, "Movaster". I remember quite well the landing of the boat at then Farrowtown, now Kampsville, and it was



said at the time that Col. Hardin's horse, from which he fell, was on the boat."

The first meeting of the County Commissioners at the new county seat took place on Decembed 6, 1847. The three Commissioners, Daniel T. Simpson, Adam Harpole, and Henry G. Stiles, were present. John Chauncey, the Clerk, and West M. Miller were also present. In 1854, James Dewey applied for a license to run and operate a saloon in Hardin. This license was granted, and a fee of \$50 was charged. This saloon of Mr. Dewey's was in operation for many years and was one of the best known places of its kind in the county. It was located on the corner, just west of the Herald office.

In 1854 there were a number of business places in Hardin. Stephen and John Lewis were in the mercantile business, their store being located just north of the present site of the Town Hall. John Gilbert kept a dry goods store, a saloon, and a hotel.

Another merchant that was prominent in the early days was Andrew Uhrig. He settled in Calhoun in 1829 along the Hurricane Island Slough, north of Hardin. Being a man of wealth, he engaged largely in the mercantile business. He owned a boat, the "Pearl", which operated for many years on the Illinois River. He planted the first vineyard, and sold the first beer in the county. While living north of Hardin, he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1847, he moved to Childs' landing and worked to have it made the county seat. He started a store and a saloon in the building just south of the court house. The place was later called the "Perry House."

In 1858 there were four lawyers living in Hardin. They were Frank M. and James F. Greathouse, Stephen Lewis, and D. M. McKinney.

One of the first settlers in the Hardin neighborhood was Ziprien Lamar. He died while a young man (1831) but left a son, also called Ziprien. When this son, Ziprien, grew to manhood he cleared much land and made himself a useful citizen. He was married in 1858 and became the father of seven children, one of whom was Charles H. Lamar, for many years the editor of the Calhoun Herald.

The Hardin Post Office was established in 1847 and Benjamin Childs was the first Postmaster. He served continuously from 1847 to 1887, with the exception of the Buckanan Administration.

### KAMPSVILLE

Two of the earliest settlers in Crater Precinct, in which Kamps-ville is located, were Jacob Crader and Salmon Bushnell. We find Mr. Crader moving from the west side of the county to a place several miles south of the present site of Kampsville, in the year 1830. Two years later he moved from the bluff to the river, at a place now called "Crater Landing". Mr. Bushnell settled at the present site of Kampsville, and operated a ferry. The place was known as "Bush-nell's Ferry". Other settlers in the Kampsville neighborhood in the



pre-civil war period were George Bechdolt, who settled in 1839, David Nevius in the 40's, James Foiles in 1855, Allen Johns in 1858, and Michael Worth in 1856.

In 1840 there was but one house at the present site of Kampsville and that was the home of Stephen Farrow. Columbiana, on the opposite side of the river was then a hustling little town, and the main shipping point for miles around. After a few more families settled about the home of Farrow, the place was called "Farrowtown". On March 16, 1847, Stephen Farrow was given a license to run a ferry across the river and the County Commissioners referred to the place as Farrotown.

Silver Creek seemed to have been the rival of Farrowtown in the early days. A post-office was established at Silver Creek in 1863, and Capt. M. A. Kamp was the leading merchant. He kept a grocery and dry-goods store and served as the postmaster. He moved to Farrowtown in 1873, and the citizens of the town soon petitioned that the name of the town be changed to Kampsville in honor of Capt. Kamp. The name was changed as requested.

On November 22, 1887, the first election, under the village organization, was held. The following men were elected as Trustees: M. A. KaKmp, J. H. Churchman, C. B. Farrow, Joseph Hayn, G. Alexander, and P. Ammatt. M. A. Kamp was chosen president of the board, and James Edwards was appointed village marshall.

In the 80's the federal and state governments started to build a series of dams in the Illinois River. The fifth and largest of the series was constructed at Kampsville in 1888. The dam was 1,000 feet long and 8 feet in height, being made of solid masonry. The lock, located on the Kampsville side of the river, was constructed 350 feet in length and 75 feet wide. The cost of the dam and the locks was estimated at \$350,000.

Some of the business houses that existed before 1900 were: Mrs. B. Sutter, Joseph Hayn, Mrs. J. W. Oberjohn, J. A. Kamp, Jacob Brenn, Felix Mosler, Phillip Ammott, and Fred Reamensnider.

### CARLIN PRECINCT

In the year 1834 all of the territory now included in Carlin and Crater Precincts was organized into one precinct, which was known as "Illinois Precinct". The voting place for the precinct was the home of Jacob Crader, Sr., several miles south of the present site of Kampsville. On June 3, 1839 Carlin Precinct was formed and the John Beeman Ferry house was designated as the place where the elections were held. This precinct was probably named in honor of Thomas Carlin, who had been elected Governor of Illinois in 1838.

Probably the first settler in Carlin Precinct was James G. Tharp, who came to the county in 1829. The Commissioners Records mention the names of Isahel Newell, J. B. Newell, John Beeman, William

Beeman, and Thomas Larkin as being residents of the precinct in the 30's. Other early settlers were Jesse Simmons (1838), Thomas Lumley (in the early 40's), Israel Piper (in the 40's), Francis Lynn (in the 40's), Greagory Becker (in the early 50's), John Sibley (1854), John S. Lane (1860), and Sebastian Retzer (1860).

Both John and William Beeman operated a ferry at different times. Carlin Precinct never had a large population at any time, and no large towns ever locted there. A post-office had been established at Silver Creek, but when Kampsville became important, the office was moved to that place.

### BELLEVUE PRECINCT

In 1831 a post-office was established in Bellevue Precinct, at a place known as Bellevue. Later a few stores were located here, as well as a mill and a blocksmith shop. No large towns or villages ever grew up in this precinct.

In the election of 1834 the following men served as judges and clerks: Wellman Dustan, H. P. Buckanan, Jacob Mozier, Samuel Dewey, and Valenetine Buckanan. Dr. Allen Jones who settled in the precinct in 1840 gives a list of the voters of the election of 1840. They were: Alexander Hemphill, William Wall, John Stark, Henry G. Hart, William Anderson, H. P. Buckanan, Daniel Puterbaugh, John Borrowman, John Martin, Michael Starnes, A. L. Mozier, Samuel Monn, Alvin Tolbert, Lewis Mars, Jr., A. Mars, Samuel Peg, Thomas and George McClelland, Jack Maloy, James Dewey, and John Stall. One of the men in the list, Alexander Hemphil, was serving as County Commissioner at the time.

Until 1834 all of the territory in the northern part of the county, that now included in Carlin, Crater, Hamburg, and Bellevue Precincts, was a part of Bellevue Precinct. In 1834, the part now included in Carlin and Crater was taken away from Bellevue Precinct, and in 1848 Hamburg Precinct was formed from the southern part of Bellevue Precinct.

Among the early settlers in Bellevue Precinct were: John Borrowman, who settled at Farmers' Ridge in 1848; John Anderson in the early 40's; John Crosby, in the early 30's; Humphrey Harlow in 1843; Wesley Miller in 1843; Lewis Johnson in 1850; Levi Thomas in 1851; Abraham Goewey in 1851; John Foiles in 1851; Henry V. Foiles in 1854; John W. Long in 1856; and Andreas Wintjen in 1858.

In 1845 Dan Looper owned a hand corn mill, which was the only mill for miles around.

### OTHER VILLAGES OF THE EARLY DAYS

There are a number of towns that are shown on maps that were made before the Civil War that are not listed on the recent maps. One of those towns was Milan. In 1837 it was described as "a post-office and town site in south Calhoun, fractional section 28, township

13S., one west. The first post-office in Point Precinct was located at Milan and the Postmaster was John Bolter, who was one of the prominent men in the southern part of the county in the early days. The post-office remained at Milan until 1849, when it was transferred to Deer Plain. Milan was located several miles below the present site of the Golden Eagle. The land in and about the old town of Milan is now owned by John Schmieder, one of the County Commissioners of Calhoun County.

Another village that was even more important than Milan, was Monterey. In 1854 a post-office was located there with J. S. Rutland serving as the postmaster. General Stores were conducted by J. S. Rutland and William Lee. C. W. Twichell ran a blacksmith shop, Stephen Effington operated a flour mill, Jefferson Crull was a furniture dealer, and a Mr. McCall was the Methodist Minister residing there. Before the post-office was established at Batchtown, the mail for the Batchtown people was taken over the dividing ridge by someone from the Monterey office. After a post-office was established at Batchtown, the town began to decline and at the present time there is nothing left but the red-brick school.

Cap au Gris, the small French settlement on the Mississippi River near the present site of the West Point Ferry, in Richwoods Precinct, served as a voting place for many years. The entire southern part of the county was known as Cap au Gris Precinct until 1848, when the name was changed to Point. By 1900 the little town had disappeared and at the present time the name is applied to a point in Missouri, opposite to where Cap au Gris once stood.

Another village that probably hoped to become the leading town of the county was Guilford. It was located near the Illinois River, in fractional township 11S, two west, about six miles south of the present site of Hardin. In 1837, an account concerning the town said: "It has been laid off and is said to be well situated for business purposes." The same writer also called Guilford "the new county seat" as explained elsewhere it never served as such. Shortly before 1836 a canal was planned across the county, from Guilford to Gilead. This plan was probably abandoned because of the Panic of 1837. After the county seat was moved to Hardin, Guilford began to decline, and today there is nothing to show where this little village once stood.

## CHAPTER VI

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### Popluation and Population Changes

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A study of the lists of the early arrivals in the county will show that most of them were of English descent, and came to Calhoun from some other state or territory. A large number settled first in Missouri, especially in Lincoln County, and then came to Calhoun at a later date.. Before 1840 we find no settlement of any certain nationalities. The Germans and the Irish who came before that date were scattered about the county among the English and the few French.

#### GERMANS IN SOUTHERN CALHOUN

The Germans started to come into Point Precinct soon after 1840 and formed two distinct settlements. One group was composed of Germans from Hanover who were members of the Catholic Church. They settled in Brussels and the region to the south and east of the village. The other group of Germans were of the Lutheran faith and settled to the west of Brussels. The German language was used to a considerable extent in the homes, churches, and parochial schools until the entry of The United States into World War.

In Batchtown and neighborhood territory there were Germans of both religions, but they were mixed among English and Irish and had more difficulty in keeping the German language. Because of the presence of a large number of English speaking people it was not possible to use the language in the churches or school to any extent.

Meppen was settled by Germans, most of whom came from the Province of Hanover. They named their village after one of the towns of Hanover. Since the community was almost one hundred percent German, the German language was used to a considerable extent in the homes, church, and parochial school up to 1918.

#### THE ENGLISH, IRISH, AND FRENCH

About Hardin and Gilead most of the people were of English extraction. Several miles north of Hardin a large number of French settled, their settlement being known as "French Hollow". Many of these people were not from France, but from the French Cantons of Switzerland. They made little attempt to use the French language in their homes, and the presence of a large number of English and Irish made the use in the church impossible.



A number of Irish settled in the region of Hamburg, especially to the east of the town, their settlement being known as "Irish Hollow". Most of them were Catholic and attended the church at Michael.

### THE FIRST CENSUS

The first census that was taken after Calhoun became a county was in 1830. The population at that time was listed as 1,092 of which number 1,090 were free white people. This same census mentions that there were no colored people in the county, so the other two people included in the first figures were probably indentured servants. The county records of the 30's mention the presence of several in the county.

### NEGROES IN CALHOUN

In the next census report, that of 1840, the presence of colored people is mentioned. The following table will show the number in each census report, together with their place of residence:

1840—15 colored people (13 males and 2 females).

1850—1 colored person (lived in Gilead Precinct).

1860—2 colored persons (1 in Belleview, 1 in Gilead).

1870—3 colored persons (1 in Belleview, 2 in Gilead).

1880—1 colored person (lived in Gilead).

1890—and after, none found in county.

After 1890 the people of the county were very much opposed to having colored people in the county and on several occasions they were driven from the county. A story is told about the county of several negroes being killed in a fight with a white man. This fight took place in the Civil War days at Hamburg. A third negro in the party was wounded but succeeded in reaching St. Louis where he told other members of his race about the reception that he had received in Calhoun. The colored people that lived in the county were free, and there is no evidence to show that any slaves were ever brought to the county before the Civil War.

### GAINS IN POPULATION

The largest gain in population came between the years 1840 and 1860. This was due to the great number of Irish and Germans that were arriving. The population by years is as follows:

1830—1,092.

1840—1,741.

1850—3,231.

1860—5,144.

1870—6,562.

1880—7,467.

1890—7,652.

1900—8,917.

1910—8,610.

## THE SOURCE OF POPULATION

5,347 total population of the county

3,524 born in the state of Illinois

204 born in Ohio

60 born in New York

108 born in Pennsylvania

144 born in Indiana

171 born in Kentucky

37 born in British America

96 born in England and Wales

110 born in Ireland

5 born in Scotland

875 born in Germany

36 born in France

86 born in Switzerland

19 born in Holland

1 born in Norway-Sweden.

Each year, the percent of foreign born inhabitants decreases, and it is probable that there are less than 1% of the population of the county that do not use the English language at the present time. There are few persons living in the county that are of southern European extraction.

## CHAPTER VII

### History of Calhoun Schools

The schools in the early days of Calhoun County were supervised by a man known as the "School Commissioner". The Federal Government had given section 16, of each township, to the county to be sold for school purposes. One of the chief duties of the School Commissioner was to sell the land and distribute the money to the schools. The County Commissioners Records mention the names of the following men having served as School Commissioners, but there is some doubt as to the exact date of service by each person:

John Shaw (appointed in 1836)

O. W. Bacon (serving in 1840)

Dr. William Terry (serving in 1845)

William H. Miller (1845-1846)

Nathaniel Shaw (appointed in 1846)

H. P. Buchanan (serving in 1852 and 1854)

Josiah Woodward (served sometime between 1854 and 1865)

Stephen G. Lewis (1865-1869)

After the year 1869, the persons having charge of the schools was called the "Superintendent of Schools". The list of persons who served in this capacity, together with their length of service, is as follows:

Soloman Lammy (1869-1873)

Israel Varner (1873-1877)

James McNabb (2 terms, 1877-1887)

William E. Barber (1887-1891)

John E. Watson (1891-1895)

Elmore E. Allen (2 terms, 1895-1899, 1903-1907)

Chas. H. Lamar (1899-1903)

Stephen J. Sibley (4 terms, 1907-1923)

Fred A. Long (2 terms, 1923-1929)

Cuba M. Tureman (1929- )

The first school buildings of the county were made in much the same way that the houses were. A man who lived in the county in the 30's and 40's said:

"There were in keeping with our crude environment . . . made of logs without hewing and covered with clapboards laid on what was called ribs and held in position with poles, called weight poles; nailed on roofs were the exception, but later we got one one grade higher by having boards nailed on. . . . The walls of the building had been chinked and daubed with clay mortar. Now the furniture consisted of seats made of split logs, hewed as smooth as possible (but not planed) and about twelve feet long, more or less, with holes bored in for legs. The next thing was to provide a place to write. This was generally a long plank fastened to the side of the wall by hinges and

held up by temporary props or legs so that it could, when not in use, be let down as to be out of the way. And every student's outfit consisted of a old blue back Webster's spelling book, a copy book made of sewing a few sheets of foolscap paper together, two or three goose quills to make pens, and a bottle with about two thimblefuls of ink. . . There is a lot of data on this school question, such as rules that prevailed in hiring teachers and their remuneration. There were no public schools in the county and the mode of operation would be to take a subscription paper and canvass the neighborhood in which the school is to be taught and see how many scholars the patrons would sign.. The teachers would generally expect fifteen dollars a month with the privilege of boarding around with the scholars. The price per student would depend somewhat upon the number of children in the neighborhood, ordinarily two dollars per scholar. But in case the children were few, the price would be two dollars and fifty cents, or enough to make the teacher his fifteen dollars a month and board and lodgings. Our experience and observation verified the fact that the teacher staid the longest where the pot boiled the strongest, although he was expected to even up his stay among the patrons of the school. In regard to furnishing wood for the school it was expected that the teacher, with the help of the large boys, would chop the wood and keep the fire, which was no small job on a cold day. The manner of getting the wood to the school house was generally for the neighbors to turn out with one or two yoke of oxen, and a long, strong chain and haul a quantity in the school yard and by that means keep wood handy for the teachers and scholars to chop at mornings and noons and sometimes at recesses and after school."

Two of the first schools in the county were the Point Pleasant School and the Bethel School in the southern part of the county. John McDonald, who later became the Sheriff of the county and a member of the Legislature, taught the Point Pleasant school in 1829. A school was built in Mortland Hollow in 1834 by Jacob Pruden and Charles Squiers.

The reports of the School Commissioners to the State Superintendent gives us some idea as to the number and condition of the schools at different times. The first of these reports was made in the year 1852. The report gives the following facts:

"18 schools in the county

15 schools taught by men

3 schools taught by women

440 pupils attending schools in the county

Average number of months school was in session, 3 months

Average monthly salary for men, \$20.

Average monthly salary for women, \$10.

Amount spent in the year for schools, \$870.07



School land sold in year, 280 acres for \$395.

School land unsold, 720 acres."

Mr. H. P. Buckanan, the School Commissioner, in a letter, dated November 22, 1852, to the Superintendent of Public Instruction said in part: ". . . I am glad to see that the people of this county have at last turned their attention to more education. More than half of the school houses were built in the last two years. They have all been built by subscription. The text books in use in the county are:

McGaffery's Eclectic Series

Smith's Grammar

Smith's, Mitchell's, Woodbridge's Geographies

Smith's, Ray's, Adam's, and Calhoun's Arithmetics

Goodrich's, Hale's, and Grimshaw's History

Webster's and Ray's Spelling books."

In 1860 another report was made and by the comparison of it with the 1852 report we can see the advancement made in the schools of the county. This report shows the following:

"22 schools

1125 pupils attending

23 male teachers

8 women teachers

Average term, 7 months

Schools erected during the year, 5

Average monthly salary for men, \$29.11

Average monthly salary for women, \$22.85

Amount spent for school in entire year, \$3692.

Highest salary paid, \$35.

Lowest salary paid, \$20."

In the early days no teachers' certificates were required and no teachers' examinations were given. After the Civil War when the county was organized into districts, the teachers' examinations would be given by the County Superintendent, and county certificates would be given to those who passed the examination.

The teachers' institutes were important in the early days as most of the teachers did not go away to the Normal Schools or other similar institutions to receive training. They were conducted much the same as classes in high schools to-day. Books would be given out to the teachers attending the institute, and lessons would be assigned. These institutes often lasted two weeks and the teachers would get much the same training as they receive in the summer normal training at the present time.

On the following pages a brief history, of the different schools of the county, will be given.

## Schools of Calhoun County

### BELLEVIEW PRECINCT

#### Lakeview School, District No. 4½

In the early days, the children of what is now District No. 4½ attended the Elm Grove School.

There have been two school buildings in the Lakeview District, the second of which was built in 1925. Very little about the history of the school is known to the writer due to the fact that no answers were received from numerous inquiries to people of this district.

#### Elm Grove School, District No. 4

The first school in the Elm Grove District (then District No. 1) was a log building which was built in 1859. It was situated near the site of the present building. The blackboards were made of wood and painted black. The seats were made of long boards and five and six pupils would sit together. As in many of the early schools, the boys had to cut the fire-wood and bring it into the building. The teacher boarded around with all of the different families in the district that sent children to the school. About thirty or thirty-five children attended the school in the school year of 1859-1860.

The first teacher of the Elm Grove School was Margaret Shultz. Other early teachers were: Elizabeth Keightly, J. W. Grefford, and James Turnbeaugh.

In 1897, a frame building was erected and it is in use at the present time. The enrollment in 1932 was 24. At one time most of the land in the district was held by non-residents. The first settler was John Howell, who came sometime before 1850.

#### Farmers' Ridge School, District No. 3

When the first school building was erected (in 1848) the district included most of north Calhoun. It was divided a few years later, and another log building was erected farther north. This new district included all of the territory now found in the Byerton and Farmers' Ridge District. The school building stood at the crossroads, near the present site of the Farmers' Ridge Church of Christ.

In 1882 the district was again divided, the east part being known as Byerton and the west part as Farmers' Ridge. A school, a frame building, was erected near the center of the new district.. It was enlarged a few years after it was built.

The old log school building was purchased by the Church of Christ and used by them for a number of years.

The present school building was erected in 1917. The construction work was done by Fred Halsey. It is a modern building, with a basement and a furnace and cost about \$2,500. It has a seating capacity of about fifty, although the present enrollment is only twenty.

Among the first teachers were: Patty Ferguson, Margaret Schultz and Tom Davis.

**Bellevue School, District No. 5**

The first school building at Bellevue was constructed about 1869, and the building was used as a school and a church. Some of the early teachers were: James B. Day, George Lock, and J. W. Grafford.

The present building was erected in 1916. The enrollment of the Bellevue School in 1932 was thirty-eight.

**Byerton School, District No. 2**

In the early days the Byerton School and the Farmers' Ridge School were combined in a building at the crossroads where the Farmers' Ridge Church now stands. In 1882, the district was divided. The west part being known as Farmers' Ridge District and the east part as Byerton. The first building was a frame structure, on the old box-car style. There were two doors on the west end and windows on both sides. This was afterwards enlarged by building on to one end of the old structure. This building was destroyed by fire and a new school house, the one used at the present time, was erected.

The new building was erected on the same site that the first building occupied. The building was erected by John Lunsford, and cost approximately \$1,200.

Some of the early teachers at the Byerton School were William Wilson, George Williams, Enid Martin, Alice Grimes, Marvin Munn, and Alden Batterschell.

Byerton School has had the honor of having one of its students to graduate from Oxford University in England. This student, Tom Bill, was a son of Caffie Lill who came to this country from England. He whaled off the coast of California and then came to Calhoun and settled just north of the Byerton School. The children of the Bill family, one of whom was Tom, attended the Byerton School. Mr. Bill cut wood for the farm that he had bought, and at a later date he started a store in the neighborhood. After his death his family went to the west to live and it was while there that Tom wrote the examination for a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford. He was successful in the examination and left for the university from which he graduated.. He returned to America, married, and is now living in Pasadena, California, and is reputed to be a millionaire.

**Hillcrest School, District No. 6**

About the year 1876, the Franklin School was constructed by the people of that district. The first building was made of logs and the land for the school was donated by Christian Kuck. The first directors were: John S. McConnell, Benjamin Fortune, and Christian Kuck.

Among the early teachers were: Sarah Williams of Stout, Pike County, Josephine Labby, and Martha Sharp.

When the Hillcrest Post-office was established, the name of the school was changed from Franklin to Hillcrest. In 1901 a new building was erected, and the old building was sold to the Baptist Church.

**West Panther Creek School, District No. 10**

The first building at West Panther Creek was built of logs and was used until 1865. The second building, a frame structure, was built in 1865 by donation. The present building was erected in 1917.

The early teachers were: Hattie Galloway, John H. Clooniger, Robert O. Brannon, William L. Merida, Mr. Cooley, and Hattie Deen.

There were forty-eight pupils enrolled in the school in 1932.

#### **Village Green School, District No. 9**

The people of the Village Green District first constructed a log building but it was mysteriously burned about 1880. It was replaced by a frame building. The school grounds were donated by Jacob Crader, Jr., the deed being recorded in 1874. Both the log building and the frame structure were used as a meeting place for the churches and Sunday schools. Among the early teachers were: F. C. Cox (1879), F. M. Lynn (1880), and Albro Burns.

A new school was built in 1925. The enrollment, in 1932, was thirty-three.

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### **CARLIN PRECINCT**

#### **East Panther Creek, District No. 1**

The district has had two school houses but no dates were given to the writer as to when they were built or how long each was in use. The description of the first building and its equipment would lead one to believe that it must have been built as early as the sixties. This building had an oak floor and the teacher's desk was the only desk in the room.

Some of the teachers who served the East Panther Creek School were: Jef Thurston, Isaac Kade, John Benn, George Manley, Mr. Musgrove, Winifred Fullan, Mace Smith, Miss Melvina Hooker, Dema Williams, Mrs. Andres McConnel, William Brown, Alex Labby, Anderson Jackson, Emet Martin, Mrs. Frank Rose, Frank Linn and Freman Cory, Frank Heavener, George Bartley, William Piper, Cora Retzer, Frank Rose, Emelius Tharp, Emma Thurston, Warn Wheeler, Al Couch, Alden Battershell, George Lumley, Harrison Dirking, William Hanks, Lee Hanks, Elmore Zumwalt, Roxie Hodge, Meridice Battershell, Iva Johnson, Verna Norton, Freeman Martin, and O. Harpole.

Some of the early settlers in the district were the Retzers and the Smiths who came from Pennsylvania. The Retzers came first and then wrote to the Smith family asking them to come to the county.

Early accounts of the community tell of a visit of a Vigilance Committee to a family accused of stealing a horse. They also mention the visits of bushwackers to the neighborhood during the Civil War days.

#### **The present enrollment in the East Panther Creek School is 40. Pleasant Dale School, District No. 8**

The first building of the Pleasant Dale District, a log structure, was destroyed by fire July 4, 1887. A new frame building was immed-



iately erected to replace it. This building was used until 1925, when the present one was built. Thirty-two pupils were attending the school in 1932.

Among the early teachers of the Pleasant Dale School were: Jennie Pearl (1882), F. M. Lynn (1884), John Lammy, Sarah Lammy, Chittie Lammy, Mollie Lynn, W. W. Smith, M. E. Martin, Charles Temple, and E. E. Smith. Miss Pearl received \$30 per month in 1882 and Mr Lynn received \$40 per month in 1884.

#### Silver Creek School, District No. 7

When the first settlers arrived, probably in the 50's, they built a log school in the Silver Creek Hollow. This building was used both as a church and a school until 1887, when a frame structure was erected. The new building was never used as a church, but a Union Sunday School met in the building for some time.

The following are some of the teachers of the Silver Creek School: Albert Wigand, Fred Wigand, Charles Foiles, Frank Lynn, Joseph Becker, William Piper, E. A. Tharp, Stephen J. Sibley, Jennie Sibley, William Rose, Clo Jennings, Laura Kritz, Lena Waldheuser, Lela Foiles, Elba Sibley, Roxana Hodge, Mildred Walls, Charlotte Brangenburg, Flora Armstrong, Bessie Tozier.

#### HAMBURG PRECINCT

##### Fox Creek School, District No. 11

The land upon which the Fox Creek School is now built was purchased in the year 1859. There was probably some sort of a log school at first, and in 1873 a frame building was erected. Until about 1900, the Fox Creek also included the territory now a part of the Mozier Hollow District. For many years the school buildings were used as a place for church services. John Lammy, Sheriff of Calhoun County, was killed near the schoolhouse, on Sept. 26, 1881.

The present building was constructed in 1925 and it contains two classrooms. It is one of the most modern buildings of its kind in the county. The Fox Creek District is said to be the only district in the county to have a Parent-Teachers Association. The 1932 enrollment was sixty.

The following teachers taught in the first two buildings: Anna Wineland, Alta Tibbets, Frank Lynn, Emelius Tharp, Frank Heavener, Sylvester Crader, Louis Goltz, Minnie Peters, George Fulkerson, Charles A. Sevier, William Piper, Frank Rose, Sam Darr, and William Merida.

Since the two-room school was erected the following persons have taught: Lawrence Charlton, Myrtle Benz, George Lumley (2 years), Beatrice Foiles (2 years), Clarence Foiles, Beatrice Foiles, Mrs. Armstrong, Myrtle Benz, Lee Farnbach (2 years), Selma Blackwell (2 years), Lee Farnbach, Louis Goltz.



**Mozier Hollow School, District No. 16**

Before the Mozier Hollow District was organized the pupils of the neighborhood went to the Fox Creek School. The present building was erected in 1901-1902. Some of the early teachers were: Myrtle Dirking, Gussie Smith, and Charles Buckanan.

The enrollment of the Mozier Hollow School in 1932 was thirty-eight.

**Hamburg School, District No. 17**

Long before the Civil War a log school was constructed by the people of Hamburg. It was located in the southwest part of the town, near the present site of the Waldron Hall. The second school, of hewn logs, was built about a half of a block southeast of the present school building. The third building was built about 1870. It was a large one-room frame structure, located on the west side of a large hill and about a block from the Mississippi River. About the year 1910, the building was enlarged by adding a large room to the south side of the old building. In 1924, another room was added to the west side of the building. This room is used by the high school.

The school building was used for both church and school purposes until about 1900.

Among the teachers who taught in the period of 1870 to 1905 were: Hollis Stone (1870), George Harrington, James McNabb, W. E. Barber, Anna E. Temple, Nellie Hooker, James E. Nimerick, Harriet E. Williams, J. D. Rose, J. W. Becker, John Day, Jr. (7 terms), Warren Sitton, and Addie M. Fowler (1902-1903). A number of those mentioned above taught two or more terms.

**Indian Creek School, District No. 18**

Little is known of the first log school that was built in the Indian Creek District. Jane Kincaid describes it as a small log building, located about 200 yards from the home of her grandfather, Silas Wilson, Sr. That location would be about one-fourth mile from the present building, and northwest of the present site of the W. W. Campbell home. She remembers two teachers who served there, Jack Cavander and John Elledge.

The second school building in the Indian Creek District was made of logs and covered with clapboards. It was located at the intersection of the Indian Creek road and the state road, just south of the present site of the George Swearingin home. The building had a door on the south side, several windows on the east and west sides, and a solid north wall. A blackboard was placed against the north wall. The seats extended from north to south, lengthwise of the building. They were made of split logs, smoothed on the flat side, with holes bored on the round side into which were driven wooden legs. A large box stove stood in the center of the room. While the children were studying, they sat facing the stove, but if they wished to write they would have to turn around, since the writing desks were against the walls of the building.

From a report made by Henry T. Crader, the Township Treasurer in 1873, we get the following facts about the Indian Creek School of that time:

"School year, 1872-1873

One log school, one female teacher, 22 boys and 15 girls attending, length of term, 6 months, teacher's salary, \$35. per month."

This log building was used by the Church of Christ each year that it was used as a school. Some of the teachers who served in this building were: Ben Rannals, Lafayette Nye, Mr. Gilbert, Henrietta Rundles, H. S. Stone. Samuel Hollis, Sanders, Z. T. Williams, Miss Elizabeth McGinnis (now Mrs. Stephen McDonald), and Miss Elizabeth Joslin (later Mrs. C. W. Suiersq).

On the 17th day of May, 1875, one acre of land was given to the the Indian Creek District by Silas and Nancy Wilson. Upon this land the first frame school building was erected. It was located some distance up the Indian Creek Hollow, at the site of the present school building. This building was used by the church until the Indian Creek Church was built, in 1885.

The first teacher in the frame building was Miss Rosanna McGinnis. Other teachers were: H. S. Stone, Z. T. Williams, Miss Mabel Stone, Samuel Crader (a son of Abraham Crader), Richard Williams, Anna Wineland, John C. Rose, John S. Wilson, Charles Lamar, W. S. Wilson (4 terms), Miss Janie Hirst (now Mrs. W. S. Wilson), Thomas Turnbaugh, Miss Addie Fowler (now Mrs. John Day, Jr.), Charles Buckanan, Sadie Miller, W. E. Barber, and Charles Kinman. Miss Emma Bovee (now Mrs. John Foiles of Kampsville), and Harriet E. Nimerick each taught a summer term. The last teacher in the old school was Miss Leta Byrd.

A new building was erected in the summer of 1915. The contractor was John U. Roehlof Hamburg. He was assisted by Frank Roehl and L. A. Wilson. The first teacher in this building was Miss Leta Byrd. Others teaching before 1920 were: W. S. Wilson and Miss Ione Crader.

Some of the men who served for many years on the school board were: Abraham Crader, Henry T. Crader, Ira Lawson, Sr., Austin Wilson, Alfred Carnes, Silas Wilson, Sr., John H. Trowbridge, Jesse Wilson, Silas Wilson, Jr., Timothy Stone, F. W. Webster, H. H. Phillips, Frank Terrus, Herman Crader. Several of these served for as many as six terms.

The enrollment in the Indian Creek School in 1932 was thirty-eight.

**Summit Grove School, District No. 12**

In the year 1847 or 1848 the people of the Summit Grove neighborhood erected a log building which was to serve as both a church and a school. At a later date, a frame structure was erected about a fourth of a mile from the old cemetery. Another frame building was

erected at the same place and was used until 1907 when a fourth school, also a frame structure, was built.

Some of the persons who taught in the district were: John Nevius, McAlister, William Cooley, Anderson Orr, Mill Hooker, Albert Ansell, Frank Lynn, William Piper, William Rose, and Miss Mattie Dean.

#### **Mount Hope School, District No. 15**

The first building in the Mount Hope District was built in 1874. The second building which is in use at the present time was constructed in 1908.

Some of the teachers who have taught in the district since 1890 are: Cora Toulouse (1890), Maggie Kelley (1892), Katie Williams (1894), Bridget Nimerick (1895), Maggie Kelley (1896-1899), Margaret Inman (1900-1903), William Page (1904), Clara Shannon (1906), Hanna Feidler (1907), Jessie Oden (1908), Ester Cloniger (1909), Gertrude Workman (1910), Charles Sevier (1911-1912), Edwin Moorman (1913), Grace Foiles (1915), Esther Hefner (1917-1919), Ione Crader (1919-1920), Clarence Foiles, Catherine Fischer, Manuel Hagen, Frances Corbett, Lena Jones, and Darlene Clugsten.

### **CRATER PRECINCT**

#### **Crater School, District No. 14**

The first school building was a frame structure, erected about the time of the Civil War. It was used until 1900 when the second building was erected.

Some of the teachers of the Crater School were: Bridget Kelly (1890-1893), Charles Temple (1893-1895), Edward McDonald (1895-1897), Lottie Bain (1897-1899), Peter A. Gotway (1899-1910), J. Edward Godar, Agatha C. Braungel, Marie Wittman, and C. S. Goddard.

Since 1929, the district has been renting a new brick building, located about a quarter of a mile south of the old building, and just west of the post-office.

#### **Kampsville Public School, District No. 13**

In 1878 the first school building in the Kampsville district was erected. It was a frame building, about 36 feet by 40 feet, and located near what is now the intersection of Broadway and Locust Streets. The first teacher in this school was Martin DeKinder. Another school was maintained a short distance up Crawford Creek. This school was discontinued about 1900.

A new site for the Kampsville School was purchased from M. A. Kamp in 1900. The old frame building that had been used was sold to the Baptist Congregation, who used it for several years and then sold it. It is now being used as a dwelling. A new building was erected upon the new site. It was afterwards remodeled, and at the present time it is being used by the grade school and the three-year high school.

Some of the early teachers of the Kampsville School were: C. C. Wiegand (1890, salary \$43. per month), Charles Lamar (1892), E. A.

Tharp and Maud Haper ((1893), F. F. Bennett and Charles Bellamy (1896), Nellie Carpenter and Frank Bennett (1898), C. Killebrew and F. F. Bennett (1899), Maude Haper and Tillie Eutter (1900), Henry Rose (1900), S. J. Sibley and Vester Darr (1901), W. M. Piper and Rosa Tharp (1902), W. E. Barber, Rose Tharp, and Augustus Smith (1903), Gussie Bartholomew and E. A. Tharp (1904), Vina Hirst and E. A. Tharp (1905), Saddle Utterback and G. C. Churchman (1907), G. C. Churchman and Winnie Johnson (1907), A. F. Auer and Winnie Johnson (1909), G. C. Churchman and Elizabeth Batchelder (1910).

### HARDIN PRECINCT

#### Degerlia School, District No. 19

The first school in the Degerlia neighborhood was built in 1870 on land donated by Mary Godar. The teachers of this school were C. C. Wiegands and Rose Ann McGinnis. The second school was built in 1884, and the persons teaching in this building were: Charles Lamar, Charles Breden, J. Edward Godar, Mary Miller, Peter Gotway, William Breden, Jr., and Judith Pregaldin.

The school that is being used at the present time was built in 1916. The 1932 enrollment was forty-one.

#### Hardin Public School, District No. 20

The first school to be built at Hardin was erected some time before 1859. It was in that year that James Greathouse who later became one of the best known of alhoun attorneys, came to the county and was employed as teacher. Some of his pupils were Mrs. Lucy Beaty, Mrs. Ruth Lammy, and George B. Childs. After this building was abandoned as a school it was remodeled into a dwelling, and it stands today at its original location, on the lot just north of the Standard Oil Service Station. Some of the men who taught in this building were: James Greathouse, John and Chittic Lammy.

The second school building was erected about 1873. It was a two story, frame building and was located northwest of the courthouse, on the lot just west of the Chris Ringhausen home. Some of the teachers who taught here were: Albert Ansell, Mr. and Mrs. James Day, Mr. Osborne, C. M. Tucker (1880-1881), James McNabb (1879-1880, 1881-1885), W. W. Pulliam (1885-1887), William Wells, E. A. Tharp, John Watson, and Elizabeth Stoffle.

This school building was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1897. The town hall was used until a new building could be erected.

The school board purchased a tract of land several blocks south of the court house and a new two-story, three room, brick-building was erected. The first teachers in the new building were J. F. Lacey and wife. Other early teachers were John Mackelton, Charles Lamar, and Chris Worthy.

A new addition to the school was completed in May, 1917, at a cost of about \$6,000.



The high school was organized in 1916, and the first graduating class left the school in June, 1919. The four graduates were Mildred Aderton (now Mrs. Archie Nelson of Jerseyville), Ione Wilkinson (now Mrs. Arthur Mielke of Hardin), Mac Canan and Fred Linkogle. **Franklin School, District No. 23**

At first there was no definite place in the Franklin District for holding school. Different houses and homes were used, and finally a small log building was erected. It was used until 1859, when a brick building was erected a short distance south of the log structure. This brick building is in use at the present time.

Some of the early teachers were: William Arnett, George Smith, William Fowler, and Mr. and Mrs. Van Duzen. Some of the pupils in the early days were Stephen McDonald, the Schleepers, Squiers, Cresses, Mortlands, and Smiths.

Before the Union School district was organized, the children of that neighborhood came to the Franklin School. Some of these children were the Nairns, Johnsons, and Richies. Before the Oasis Church was built, the church services were often held in the school building.

### GILEAD PRECINCT

#### **Oak Grove School, District No. 21**

The first school that was held in the Oak Grove District was in a house on the Carl Squier farm. The second school was conducted in a house on the McNabb farm, and at a later time a house on the farm of John Byrd was used. All of these buildings were used in the sixties. The first building to be constructed for school purposes was in the year 1867 or 1868. This building was used until 1879 when it was replaced by a frame building. In 1916 the building that is being used at the present time, was constructed.

Among the teachers who served the district in the early days were: Amanda Buel (later Mrs. William Wilkinson), Mr. Athy, Chittie Lammy, Albert Ansell, J. W. Grafford, Stephen McDonald, Mrs. Stephen McDonald, Hollis Stone, Z. T. Williams.

Some of the denominations that used the Oak Grove School at different times as a place for church services were: the Presbyterians, Church of Christ, Latter Day Saints, and Methodists.

#### **Gilead School, District No. 22**

Since Gilead was the first county seat of the county, it is quite likely that there was a school established there at an early date. John McDonald who later became Sheriff of the county went there to teach in the thirties. One record mentions the fact that Peter Cartwright, the famous Methodist Circuit-rider, held a meeting in the Gilead School, in 1848. The last school house erected in the Gilead district, was in 1902.

Some of the early teacherds at Gilead were: Hollis Stone (1876-1877), Z. T. Williams, Alice Squiers, Nellie Hooker, Alta R. Tibets,



Elmore Allen, Joseph Becker, Jennie Pearl, William E. Barber, Emilius A. Tharp, and Ida Bain.

Both the Methodist and the Lutheran Church used the Gilead School at different times.

#### Lower Gilead School, District No. 24

The first school in this district was erected in the fall of 1893. The first teacher was Nellie Harrell, who taught two terms. The school was after referred to as "The Little Nellie School". Miss Addie Fowler served as the second teacher, and Maud Haper as the third teacher. Others who taught there were Allie Batch, Carl Gordon, and Sadie Miller.

Before this school was organized, the pupils of the neighborhood went to the Gilead School. The petition for a separate school was started by Nick Kritiz, Henry Feidler, and Michael Fonck. Others in the vicinity signed the petition, and in a short time the new district was created.

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### RICHWOODS PRECINCT

#### Union School, District No. 26

The first and only school building to be constructed at Union was built in 1865. The contractors were Wychoff and Mallay of Meppin.

The first teacher of the Union School was Charles Ingersol. Other teachers in the early times were: Mr. Athy, Mr. Owens, Dr. Milliam Nairn, Elmore Allen, Andrew Smith, Frank Belt, Mr. Francis Cox, Mattie Ellis, Olive M. Haper (1893-1894), Warren Sitton (1895), Walter Squiers (1896), Wm. Daugherty, Ella Squiers, and Albert Wiegand.

The school term did not begin until November and lasted for only three months. Another term was started in the spring and was known at that time as "Summer School". Sometimes a different teacher was hired for this term. Among those who taught in the "Summer School" were: Elizabeth McGinnis, Annie McDonald, William Fowler, and Mrs. Soffronia Smith.

Church and Sunday School was conducted in the school house in the early days by the Church of Christ. Two preachers of this denomination that attended the services were Reverend Sears and Reverend Burns. W. W. Smith, a Methodist preacher, also held services in the school. In the early days, debates and spelling matches were held in the school house.

#### Monterey School, District No. 27

Sometime before the year 1852 a log building was erected at Monterey. It was in use in 1877 when the brick building was erected. The brick structure is still in use at the present time. Before 1874, the school was known as the "Rock Point" School.

One of the first teachers was James Smirl, a subscription teacher. After the district school was organized, the first teacher was F. T.

Belt. Other teachers in the early days were: Mr. Jenkins, Thos. Athy, William Cooley, Mildred Hooker, James Van Deusen, Elizabeth Van Deusen, Elmore Allen, Zachrey Williams, M. L. Tremain, Chas. W. Ingersoll, D. D. Nelsn, Mary Jane Allen, Mattie Ellis, Wm. Daugherty, and R. V. Smith.

Stephen McDonald and Louise Crull taught in the old log building. A "Summer School" was maintained in the district on about the same principle as at the Union School.

#### **Little Rock School, District No. 30**

The first building to be erected in this district was a log structure, erected sometime in the thirties or forties. In 1863, a new stone building replaced the log one. This building is the oldest school building in the county at the present time.

Some of the early teachers were: Ann McDonald (1863), William Bartlett (1865). D. W. Van Deusen (1868-1869), J. F. Tribble (1881, salary \$35 per month), R. V. Smith (1883, \$40 per month), J. F. Tribble (1883-1884, salary \$40 per month), Eliza Flanagan (1885, \$30 per month), Florence Greamba, \$30 per month),

An old schedule dated November 1874 shows 10 pupils attending the school, bearing only three family names: Greamba, Lippincott, and Keithley. Sue McCurdy was teaching and the salary was \$50 per month. The directors at the time were Hiram Keithley and D. E. Lippincott.

There have been very few pupils in this district in the last ten or fifteen years. During a number of the school term years there were no pupils attending, but it was necessary for the directors to hire a teacher and have the school open on each school day in order to keep some neighboring district from annexing the territory. The reason for the small number of pupils is that the district is nearly one hundred percent Catholic and a large parochial school is maintained in the district to which most of the children go.

#### **Mount Victory School, District No. 25**

About the year 1840, a small log school was erected on the southwest corner of the Benedict Sackman farm. This building was located at the top of a large hill, and was usually called the "Mudsock School".

In 1877, the people of the district voted upon a new site for the school, and the one that was chosen was located at the foot of the same large hill to which previous reference has been made. The land upon which the new building was erected was donated by Dominick Zigrang. The building was a frame structure, costing about \$200. The construction work was done by Claus Martin. At a later date a twenty foot addition was put to the front of the building.

Some of the teachers in the early days were: Hodgen Douglas, Frank Cox, Mollie Bartlett, Amanda Buhl, and Hattie Moore.

The log building was used by the Church of Christ as a meeting place on numerous occasions.

**Batchtown Public School, District No. 28**

District No. 28 (formerly No. 1) has had four school buildings. The first one was a small log building, erected sometime before 1852. Mrs. Sarah Plummer, one of the oldest of the Batchtown people, says she went to school in this building when she was six years old.. Her first teacher was a Mr. Atkinson.

The second building, made of stone, was erected in 1854, and was still standing in 1910. Some of the first teachers in this building were: Mr. Strickland, Abram Yandall, C. B. Golden (about 1860), Thomas Athy (1861-1863), John L. Lewis (1867-1868), and Mary J. Allen (1868-1870).. During the term of 1868-1869 there were forty-one boys and forty-three girls attending the school.. The directors at that time were Wm. Batchelder, James Davis, and James Berrey. The term was six months and the salary of the teacher was \$40. per month. Z. T. Williams taught in this building in 1874 for \$55 per month, E. E. Musgrove in 1875 for \$50, Fred Linley in 1878 for \$60. The spring term of this year was taught by J. F. Tribble. This was Mr. Tribble's first term. Anna Lindley taught in 1878 and 1879 and Mr. Tribble again taught in 1889 and 1881.

The third school was a two-story, two-room, brick building and it was erected in 1881. Z. T. Williams was the first teacher (1881-1882), and Mary S. Day taught the spring term of that year. Hattie C. Moore taught in 1882-1883, T. B. Smith in 1884-1885, and Jennie Hof, the spring term. Mr. Tribble came back to Batchtown in 1885 and taught each year from then until the year 1908.

The present building was erected in 1912 on the same grounds as the two-story building. This building has three rooms, is built of red brick, and has a seating capacity of 110. Some of the first teachers were: Margaret Inman, Cora Smith, Irma Wallendorf, Minnie O'Donnell, Rose Bin, D. W. Story, T. B. Mills, Rose Bailey, Letitia Mortland, E. C. Rose, Lucy Wilkinson, and Ross Twichell.

The High School was organized in 1891 with E. C. Rose as principal. He taught two years and was followed by Glenn Nevius who served until 1933. Miss Cora Smith has taught in the primary room since 1910.

Some of the early township treasurers were: A. C. Wilson (1856-1861); George B. Smith (1861-1867); John Lowe (1867-1880); R. C. Beaty (1880-1890); and A. B. Lowe (1890-1910).

**Nicholas School, District No. 29**

The first building in the district was made of logs. It was later replaced by a frame building and was used until the present building was erected in 1916.

Among the early teachers were: Wm. Arnott (1858), S. W. Jones (1859), A. G. Ansell, Stephen McDonald, Jersey Coner, Elmore Allen, Heziah Cash, Dr. I. S. Berrey, J. F. Tribble, A. L. Wiegand, R. L. Smith, Clara Greamba, and Edward Canan. The school was named after John Nicholas, an early settler.

## POINT PRECINCT

**Western School, District No. 32**

The school building used at the present time in the Western District was erected sometime between the years 1850 and 1855. But before the erection of this building there were two other buildings that were used, but we do not know the date of erection of either. The first one was located about a mile west of the present building, while the second one was across the road from the building in use at the present time. In 1898, the present building was enlarged.

Some of the early teachers were: Sue Houghtland, Mrs. Green, Sue McCurdy, Levi Guthrie, Charles Watson, R. V. Smith, A. W. Wiegand, E. J. Canan, Anna Eaton, Elizabeth Stoffle, Walter Squiers, William Tharp, Ella Fowler, Emilius Tharp, J. R. Hardesty, and Henry Weigand.

**Liberty School, District No. 33**

The first building in the Liberty District was erected in 1848. The first teacher in this building was General Brown. The building continued to be used until 1905, when it was moved away and replaced by a new frame building. This second building was used until its destruction by fire, in 1923. A new building, one of the finest rural schools in the county, was erected on the same site.

Some of the early teachers were: Walter Woodward, William Williams, Charles Guthrie, Sarah Loonam, Susie Wurtz, C. Lammy, Charles Ruble, William Smith, Edward Canan, Lue Springston, Thomas Plummer, Anna Eaton, Agnes Hagen, Ophelia Delonia, Leon Wurtz, Howard Bell, Fred Fiedler, and Hannah Fiedler.

The school building was used for church services for a time. Services were conducted by Rev. Brockage, a Lutheran minister.

**Brussels Public School, District No. 31**

The first building of the Brussels School was located about a mile and a half west of the village. It was constructed about the year 1855. The school remained at that place until about 1866, when the site of the old building was sold and a new site purchased from William Pohlman, Sr., at the foot of what is now known as the "Pohlman Hill". The old school building was sawed into two parts and then moved to the new site. It remained here and was used for a school until it was blown down in a storm in March, 1913.

The following month (April, 1913) an election was held to decide whether a new site should be chosen and a new building erected. The majority of votes were for a new site and a new building. A strip of land was purchased from Barney Pohlman for \$500. This site is located on the corner, southeast of the Lutheran Church and a few hundred yards west of the site of the old school.

The building cost about \$2,500 and it was ready for use in September, 1913.



One of the first teachers in the old building was Julius Demming. In the record of the Minutes of the Directors meeting, which was held on April 6, 1855, we find that Mr. Demming was to get the sum of \$78, for the term, but no mention is made to the length of the term. Other early teachers were: Francis Fitzgerald (1858), Talman Andrews (1860), John F. Nolte (1865-1866). Mr. Nolte received \$35. per month. Other teachers were: Sarah Lammy, Charles Flanagan, Marion Todd, A. D. Foiles, Johanna Fiedler, Henry Wiegand, and William Dougherty. Herman Imming taught ten successive terms (1875-1886) at \$35. per month.

Before the first Brussels School was built, the children of the neighborhood probably attended the Bethel School, which was located on the Thos. Andrews farm, west of Brussels. John Lammy in his history of the county says that the Bethel School was the first one in Calhoun County, and that it was built before 1829. The records of the old Bethel School (or Gilman School as it was called by many) are still in good condition and from them we can get much valuable information about schools in the early days.

The Brussels School were never used by any church as a place to hold services, but for a time the building was used by an organization known as the "Sons of Temperance".

#### **Point Pleasant School, District No. 34**

The first building to be erected after the district was organized was built in 1850. But there was probably a log building before the frame building was constructed, as school was being conducted in this neighborhood as early as 1829. John McDonald, who later taught at Gilead, served as the first teacher. In 1870, the frame school was replaced by a brick building, and it continued to be used until 1917, when a modern and well equipped building was built in the district.

Some of the teachers in the early days were: Mrs. Cash, Miss Kibbie, John Lammy, Albert Weigand, John Watson, Thomas Plummer, Grant Auer, Charles Watson, Rose McNabb, Elmore Allen, Mrs. Lottie Hopkins, Charles McNabb, Sara Lammy, Chittie Lammy, and Tod Andrews.

In about the year 1870, the school was used by the Methodists as a place in which to hold church services.

#### **Fruitland School, District No. 36**

The Fruitland District is one of the smallest, but at the time of its organization there were a great many people living in the neighborhood, due to the fact that a coal mine and a quarry were located in the district.

The school house was built in 1905 and there were between fifty and sixty pupils in the district at that time. Some of the early teachers were Siebert Elder and Edward J. Canan.

#### **Keck School No. 1, District No. 35**

There are two schools in District No. 35 and they are known as



Keck No. 1 and Keck No. 2. The smaller of the two is Keck No. 1 which is located on the "Prairie", about a mile above the Deer Plain Ferry. It is a small, one story building, being erected in 1888. Before its erection there was a log building which had been used since 1871.

The teachers in the log building were: Hannah Barnhart, Angie Cline, Sarah Ann Nicholas (spring of 1873), and George Watters. All of these were subscription teachers. The first district teacher was Cora Rexford (winter of 1877). Other district teachers who served in the old log building were: Charles Watson, John Watson, Albro Burns, Douglas Baxter, Maggie Kelley, Mary McCauley, and Florence Greamba.

The first teacher in the new school was Rebecca Dare. Walter Cockrell was another early teacher. The new building was located about a quarter of a mile north of the old log building.

#### **Keck School No. 2, District No. 35**

The first school in the district now known as District No. 35 was built about 1850 in what is now a part of Meyers' orchard.

The first teacher for this school was obtained from Monticello Academy at Godfrey. This school continued to be used until about 1893 when it was replaced by a new two story frame building, which was located about a half mile south of the old building. When the new building was erected it was the intention of the directors to have two teachers for the school, but a few years later the enrollment decreased and one of the rooms was never used.

Some of the teachers who taught in the old school building were: George Ruckstuhl, Lucretia Brown, Elizabeth McGinnis (spring term, about 1871), Todd Andrews, John B. Miller, C. W. Jones, Spaulding Brown (2 terms), Milton Brown, Carleton Woodward, Jemima Hoff, Rebecca Dare, and Grant Auer.

The first teacher in the new school was E. B. Legate. Others who taught in this building before 1910, were: W. W. Fulliam, Tom Plummer, Elmore Allen, Nona Haper, J. Edward Godar, Stephen J. Sibley, and Otto Snyder.

One of the directors in the early days was Peter T. Carpenter, who served for more than twenty years.

The buildings that were constructed, Keck No. 1 in 1888 and Keck No. 2 in 1893, were built from a fund left by the Will of Mr. Keck. The money left to the district could be used for two purposes. Part of it could be used for the building of the two new schools and the remainder was to be loaned out and the interest was to be used to provide free text books for the pupils and to pay the salary of the teachers. The amount that was out on interest was large enough that no school taxes were levied until recent years.

Mr. Keck was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and came to Calhoun County at an early date. Mr. Francis Marshall and he batched together until 1853. He died December 16, 1871.

## CHAPTER VIII

### History of Calhoun Churches

The first churches to become important in Calhoun before the Civil War were the Catholic, Methodist, and Church of Christ.

The circuit riders of the Methodist Church entered the county at an early date. Peter Cartwright, most famous of the circuit riders of the west, had charge of the district, of which Calhoun was a part. In his "Autobiography" he does not mention Calhoun by name, but tells of being in the neighboring counties. He said, "I was the first preacher who ever held a camp meeting in the Military Tract . . . . We held a camp meeting in Pike County in 1827." During the same year he had attended a Quarterly Meeting in Madison County and on returning north passed through Calhoun County. "I crossed the Illinois River," he said, "on to the Military Tract, aiming for the Atlas Circuit Quarterly Meeting . . . several families had moved out here. and had been living here three or four years, and perhaps, had never hear a sermon since they had settled in the new country." In 1836 Rev. Cartwright's district embraced all of the territory between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers from the mouth of the Illinois to the Wisconsin line.

After 1840, Catholic priests use to come to the county occasionally to say Mass. The Methodists had an advantage over the Catholics since their organization permitted the use of local preachers in the community to take care of the church in the absence of the circuit rider. By 1863 the Methodist had two churches in the county, one at Hardin with a membership of 145, and one at Summit Grove with 35 members. In the same year there were seven Sunday Schools which had forty teachers and officers and two hundred and twenty scholars. By the year 1874 the Summit Grove Church had one hundred and eighty-nine members and Hardin had one hundred and sixteen members. There were two ministers and three local preachers living in the county at the time. The Methodist Church lost many of its members when other Protestant churches were organized.

The Church of Christ entered the county many years before the Civil War. They did not build any churches but held many meetings in different parts of the county. Probably the first Church of Christ that was organized in the county was at Indian Creek. The old log school, that stood at the mouth of the hollow, was used at a meeting place.

The connection between the churches and the schools in the early days is very close. Often a building would be erected with the understanding that it was to be used as a church and a school. A few of the schools were still being used by the churches as late as 1910. No

churches were ever built in Gilead Precinct, but school houses were frequently used by different denominations.

A summary of the history of the different churches of each precinct will be given on the following pages.

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## Churches of Point Precinct

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### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

One of the first churches to be organized in Calhoun was the Catholic Church at Brussels. The earliest Catholic settlers near Brussels were Irish and French. They had no church building and no resident priest.

In 1843, a great number of Germans began to arrive and settle in the Brussels neighborhood. In 1848, under the leadership of Casper Blooms and Theodore Schleeper, a church was constructed. This was a frame building 40 feet by 30 feet, with four living rooms to the back of the building. It was located on the land at the northwest corner of the Catholic Cemetery where the house of Joseph Menke, Sr., later stood. By 1850, thirty Catholic families had arrived. Among them were the Kelleys, Cunninghams, Gleasons, McCauleys, Wittmonds, Telkamps, Blooms, and Schleepers.

Until 1852, there was no resident priest, but in that year Father John Molitor, a Belgian Priest, arrived. He lived but three months after taking up his work in the community. After his death the people of the parish decided to name the little village "Brussels" after Father Molitor's native city, Brussels, Belgium.

Father S. J. Nerreydt served for a short time and was succeeded by Father J. C. Regal who served from 1853 to 1860. During his stay he established a mission at Michael, which was twenty-four miles to the north. After seven years of strenuous work in the county he died and was buried in the Brussels Cemetery.

During the time of Father C. Raphael, who served until 1863, five acres of land were given to the church by Theodore Schleeper and work on a new church was started. The church, a brick structure forty feet by eighty feet, was completed in 1863. A new residence for the priest had been completed during the previous year. Father Peter Rustemeyer served from 1863 to 1865 and from 1867 to 1870. It was due to his efforts that the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Louis were secured and a Catholic School established. During the period of 1865 to 1867 when he was away his place was taken by Father Marks, a native of Bavaria.

In the year 1871, Father Blasius Winterhalter was appointed pastor and served until 1907, a period of 36 years. It was through his efforts that a new priest's home and a hall were constructed. Father Joseph Mauer served from February to November, in 1907,, and he was followed by Father Joseph Becker who remained until

1910. Father A. J. Stenzel came in that year. During his stay he secured the Sisters of the Precious Blood to replace the Sisters of St. Joseph who had left the parish. A new two story brick home was constructed as a home for the Sisters.

Father John J. Brune was appointed to the parish in 1919 and served until July, 1924, at which time Father Henry B. Schnelton became the pastor.

In the fall of 1930 a new Catholic School was dedicated by Bishop James A. Griffin of Springfield.

### ST. MATHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH

To the west of the village of Brussels, many Germans of the Lutheran faith settled. They founded a congregation on October 31, 1861, with Reverend J. F. Buenger of St. Louis conducting the first meeting.

On May 6, 1862 Reverend R. Biederman was installed as the first resident pastor. The contract for the building of the church was given out in 1862. A tower was added to the building in 1891. In 1909 a parochial school was conducted near the church. In the summer of 1922, a new home for the pastor was constructed.

When the church was first organized, the Lutherans of the Batchtown neighborhood attended the church, but about the year 1893 they withdrew from the Brussels congregation and organized a church at Batchtown. They withdrew because of the distance between their town and the Brussels church.

### EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

The Ebenezer Methodist Church was built on the Thomas Andrews place, about three miles west of Brussels, in the year 1870. Rev. Charles Atkinson, a circuit rider, was the first pastor. The circuit at that time included four points, Hardin, Oasis, Batchtown, and Ebenezer.

The trustees of the church were: Dr. Robert Andrews, William Love, and Gus Greamba. Those active in church and Sunday school work were: Sue McCurdy, Candace Greamba, C. W. Jones, William Love, Caroline Jones, and Lucinda Lippincott.

Reverend Atkinson was succeeded by the following ministers: H. C. Turner, H. M. Short, Howard Miller, Rev. Howard, J. Stout, W. S. Hawkings, W. S. Reid, P. L. Turner, and W. S. Bailey, Jr. Reverend Bailey was the last of the ministers to serve the congregation.

The Ebenezer Church was destroyed by fire in 1889, and was never rebuilt. Sometime later a church was constructed at Beechville and many of the members of the Ebenezer Church attended this church at Beechville.



## Churches of Richwoods Precinct

### BATCHTOWN METHODIST CHURCH

The first building of the Batchtown Methodist Church was constructed in 1876. A deed, signed by William Batchelder and wife, gave the property upon which the church was built, to the Trustees of the "Richwoods Methodist Church". The trustees at that time were: A. C. Wilson, James Berrey, C. W. Twichell, James Watson and Henry Flagge. The present building was constructed in 1891, John Earley being the contractor.

The early ministers were: Charles Atkinson, H. M. Short, H. C. Turner, and H. P. Carson. Rev. Carson was the pastor of the small Presbyterian congregation at Hardin. During the years that he served as pastor, 1876-1886, he resided at Hardin and held services at Batchtown, Casis, Hardin, Hamburg, Summit Grove, and Kampsville. He made his rounds on a small pony and for the first year of his pastorate he was paid about \$400.

Before the building of the M. E. Church at Batchtown, most of the church services were in the nature of revivals, and after the revival, the minister who had conducted it, returned only for a few services and depended upon the people to keep up the interest by means of Sunday School and prayer meetings. Services were held by different protestant ministers in the stone school which was built about the year 1852.

### ST. BARBARA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Before the year 1900, the Catholic families in and about Batchtown had to go over the dividing ridge to Meppen in order to attend church services. Soon after 1900 the people asked Father Wand of St. Joseph's Church at Meppen to come to their town once a month and say Mass. He consented and the Old Rock School building was used for a time, but it was too small to accommodate the congregation, so the Woodman Hall was procured. After a year or two the Weishaup Hall was rented and this building was used until a church was built.

In 1909, the people decided to build a frame church and the late John Eageny was chosen to do the work. The corner stone was laid on Thanksgiving Day, 1909. The building was completed on August 1, 1910.

The first pastor of the church was Father Wand of Meppen. In the latter part of 1910 he was succeeded by Father J. B. Wardein of Meppen who had charge of the parish until 1919. Father S. C. Schauwacker served the people until 1924 at which date Father Jerome Morley was made the first resident pastor of the St. Barbara Church. During this stay in the parish a new home for the pastor was erected. In 1930, Father A. J. Blesser was appointed pastor.



### ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

For twenty-two years the Lutheran people of the Batchtown neighborhood attended church at Brussels. But to do this was rather difficult because of the distance and the bad roads in the winter months. So they decided to organize a church of their own at Batchtown.

The land upon which the church was built was given by Henry Johnes, Sr., and Dr. J. R. Douglas. A bell was donated by Henry Jacobs. The contractors for the new building were Joe Robeen and Henry Woehler. The corner stone for the building was laid sometime in May or June of 1893, and in the fall of that year the church was completed and the dedication services were held.

Some of the first members of the Lutheran Congregation were: Henry H. Johnes, Charles F. Mager, Herman Becker, William Dorris, Henry Woeler, Fred Gruck, August Brinkman, John Krashel, Fred Mager, Justis Franke, Gustav A. Becker, Otto H. Becker, J. C. Gueck, and T. P. Broadback.

J. R. Raush was the first pastor. Other ministers were N. P. Fedderson, organizer from St. Louis, O. C. Horn, who was stationed Kampsville, W. E. Barchers, L. Baumgartner, Walter Bloomkamp, Herman Schreck, Frank Wiegman, and Fred Branschitsch. The last two men named were stationed at Brussels. The present pastor is Rev. C. G. Georgi. There are 85 members of the church, representing 50 different families.

### BEECHVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

After the burning of the Ebenezer Church in 1889, the people of Point Precinct and the southern part of Richwoods Precinct had no Methodist Church nearer than Batchtown. About 1913 a church was constructed at Beechville. The land was given by B. F. Ingle and wife to the trustees, F. C. Deverger, Columbus Ingle, Clem Wallendorf and W. W. Smith.

The first minister of the church was Rev. Lackey. The active members were: W. W. Smith, Ida Ingle, F. C. Deverger, Eve Deverger, Ella Ingle, and Cuba Ingle.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church at Meppen was built in the year 1864. It is located about four miles north of Brussels and twelve miles south of Hardin.

The first pastor of the Meppen Church was Father Francis Witt-haut who came to Meppen December 23, 1864. When he arrived the new church was not completed and he said Mass in the Henry Kiel house. A two-story rectory of eight rooms was built, through the efforts of Father Witthaut, in the year 1866. A parochial school was erected in 1874. After serving the parish for thirty-eight years, Father Witthaut resigned. He was succeeded by Father Henry Becker. During his stay a large pipe organ was installed in the

church (1903), and a home for the Sisters was built in 1905. Up to that time parochial school had been taught by lay teachers.

In 1908 Father J. B. Wand who served until 1910, and he was succeeded by Father J. B. Wardein. The present pastor, Father S. C. Schauwecker, was appointed in 1919. During his stay a new building has been erected which serves as a parochial school and a hall. This was erected by the people of the parish in 1927.

The first trustees of the Meppen Church were Henry Kiel and John Droege. The present trustees are Henry Seimer and Ben Kiel.

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## Churches of Hardin Precinct

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### OASIS METHODIST CHURCH

The land upon which the Methodist Church at Oasis was built was given to the trustees by Capt. Thomas Mortland in 1870. The church trustees were: C. W. Twitchell, John Mortland, A. G. Squiers, George Hayn, and Augustus Smith.

Local preachers of the church were W. P. Fowler and W. W. Smith. They not only preached at the Oasis Church during the absence of a regular minister, but often went to the other churches: Ebenezer, Batchtown, Hardin, and Summit Grove, and conducted services.

The regular ministers who visited the Oasis Church were Charles Atkinson, H. C. Turner, H. M. Short and H. P. Carson.

The Oasis Church was located about eight miles south of Hardin in the southern part of Hardin Precinct. It was located on the side of a large hill, just west of the Hardin-Brussels highway, and a short distance south of the George Mortland home.

During the last ten years services were seldom held in the church. In 1932 the building was sold to the newly organized Pentacostal Church of Hardin. The members of this church had the old building torn down, and removed to Hardin. The material was used in building the Pentacostal Church, and is used by that denomination at the present time.

### ST. NORBERT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

For many years the Catholic people of Hardin attended the same church as did the people of Michael. The first Mass to be celebrated in the neighborhood was at a house located three miles north of Hardin, at the site of the old Paul Godar home. This was in the year 1850, and the priest came from St. Charles, Missouri.

In 1852, the priest from Brussels came to the neighborhood once a month and said Mass at the home of Mr. Degerlia, Mr. Ewens, and Mr. Bokamp. In 1861 the log church at Michael was constructed and a priest from Fieldon was obtained. In 1877, Father Freimuth was appointed resident pastor at Michael and he was instrumental in having the frame church built at Hardin. This building was dedicated

by Bishop P. J. Baltes of Alton on April 25, 1878. The priests who were stationed at Michael attended the Hardin Church and were Father Summers, Father Johannes, and Father Connolly.

In 1908 rectory was built and the first resident priest, Father Kelly, was installed. Other priests who served before 1910 were Father Francis Smith and Father O'Flarethy. In 1910 Father Edward Hickey was appointed. It was due to the efforts of Father Hickey that the new church was built in 1914 and 1915. On November 1, 1915 Reverend Michael Enright succeeded Father Hickey. He remained in the parish until 1922, at which time he was succeeded by Father Daniel Daly who is serving the parish at the present time.

The parochial school was organized in 1928.

### PENTACOSTAL CHURCH

In 1932, the newly organized Pentacostal Church of Hardin purchased the old Oasis Church building, and used most of the material in that building in constructing a building of their own, which is located about three blocks northwest of the court house. The dedication services were held on Thanksgiving Day, 1932.

Among the founders of the church were: Brother L. L. Hampton of Jerseyville, Mr. and Mrs. Cochran of Granite City. Among the first members were: Mrs. Edith Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook, William Lawson, and A. H. Hopkins.

This is the first Pentacostal Church to be established in the county. The present membership is about thirty. The Sunday School has fifty members, and the Young People's Organization has about eighteen members. The present pastor is Rev. T. D. Peach.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARDIN

The Presbyterian Church at Hardin was organized October 17, 1851, with a membership of twenty-five. They conducted services in the dining room of the Childs home, then in the court house, and at a later time in the old public school building.

The people then decided to construct a building of their own. The late Alexander Crader of Hamburg was in Hardin the day that the first services were held in the church. He said:

"On July 21, 1872, I stood and watched Henry Fisher nail the steps to this church building, while the people were going into their new place of worship."

The building was dedicated on October 17, 1872. On the same day H. P. Carson was ordained and installed by the Alton Presbytery.

This church building was destroyed by fire in 1908. The Calhoun Republican of November 21, 1908 said:

"The Trustees of the Hardin Presbyterian Church have let a contract for the building of a new church to replace the one that was destroyed by fire on August 27th, to H. J. Eberlin of Hardin whose bid was \$600 under a St. Louis contractor."

The building was completed and dedicated on May 17, 1908. In the fall of 1925, the building was enlarged. A modern pipe organ, probably the only one in a Protestant church in the county, was given to the church by Chris Ringhausen.

The membership of the church in 1931, was about 147. The Sunday School had 250 members and is said to be the largest in the county. Wm. Fisher has served as the Superintendent for the past twenty-five years. The record of perfect attendance is held by Roy N. Bailey, who has not been absent since January 1, 1917.

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## Churches of Crater Precinct

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### ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Between the years 1850 and 1852 there were a number of Catholic families living in what was called the "Gleason Settlement" which was located between Michael and Hamburg. Jesuits from St. Charles, Missouri, came to the neighborhood and ministered to the people.

In 1852 Father Molitor was appointed to the Brussels parish, and he came to the home of Antione DeGerlia once a month and said Mass. Father Regal of Brussels served from 1853 to 1859. He was succeeded by Father Rapael who celebrated Mass in the home of Mr. DeGerlia, Leonard Ewen, and Mr. Bokamp.

In 1871 a small log church was constructed. Three and a half acres of land which is now church property was donated by Andrew Ulrick, who then owned the land.

In 1864 Meppen received its first resident pastor and from that time until 1871, the Michael congregation was attended twice a month by a priest from either Meppen or Brussels. In 1871 Father Quitter of Fieldon had charge, but from 1872 to 1877 it was again in charge of priests from Brussels or Meppen.

In 1877 Father Friemuth was appointed resident pastor and he started mission churches at Hardin and Kampsville. He was followed by Father C. A. Sommers who came on December 8, 1878 and remained until 1892. During his stay he built a new parsonage (1883) and a new frame church (1884).

Rev. Clement Johannes came to Michael July 4, 1892. He had the present parsonage constructed soon after his arrival. He also had the parsonage at Kampsville constructed and was the first resident there. Father Connelly came in November 1895 and remained until 1905, when he was succeeded by Father J. B. Wardein. He worked in the parish until 1910 when he was succeeded by Father Hickey of Hardin who served the needs of the parish until the appointment of Father Kipling. He remained until 1912 and was succeeded by Father O'Mullane who remained as the pastor for nine years. On November 1, 1921 Father Sheehy was sent to the parish and he is serving at the present



time. In 1929 a new building was constructed. This serves as a home for the Sisters and as a school building.

### BAPTIST CHURCH AT KAMPSVILLE

About the year 1905 or 1906, the members of the Baptist Church at Kampsville bought an old school building and used it as a church building until 1912. At that date a new concrete block building was erected, the cost of which was about two thousand dollars. The old school that had been used was sold for six hundred dollars and the money was used in building the new church.

The first members of the church were: Dr. Y. O. Hardesty, John Oettle, Maud Panteous, Rebecca Piper, Carrie Quiller, and Mollie Hayn.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1910, and its membership at the present time is about twenty-five or thirty. The Baptist Church is attended by nine families with a total membership of forty.

Among the pastors who served the Baptist Church at Kampsville were: D. D. Ballard, O. A. Carmeon, W. M. Gaither, Wm. Lumley, and Fred Probst.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT KAMPSVILLE

In the year 1897, the Presbyterian Church was organized at Kampsville. Thomas Haynes was sent from the Presbytery of Alton to organize the church, but the sentiment had been created and fostered by Rev. M. A. Stone, Sunday School Missionary, who first organized the Sunday School.

The charter members were: Mrs. Maggie Cloniger, Mrs. Becky Piper, Mrs. Reba Thomas, Miss Dinah Becker, Charles A. Piper, Miss Katie Becker, John Ranolde, Miss Mary Farrar, Mrs. Mary Lawler, Miss Bernice Hauser, Roy Farrar, Miss Della Armstrong, Miss Louise Miller, John Oettle, Fred Oettle, Mollie Oettle, Fred Eipper, Mary Eipper, and Miss Flora Armstrong.

When the church was first organized, the services were held in the school house. Later they were held in the hall over the Rose Store. The present building was erected in 1908. The lot upon which the church stands was purchased from Dr. Runde for three hundred dollars.. The building cost about \$2,500.

The Sunday School was organized by Rev. M. A. Stone. One of the men who has done much for the church is Mr. C. P. Becker. His four sisters were charter members of the church but did not unite with it until later. It was through his efforts that the new church was built and paid for.

Some of the pastors who served the church were: George B. Smith,, James R. Sager, C. P. Grahma, Thomas A. McElewain, S. S. Moore, W. J. Caldwell, W. B. Worrel and Lyle D. Stone the present pastor. Reverend Stone has been the pastor of the church for the past two years.

The church has about forty-five members and the average attendance at the Sunday School is about one hundred.



### ST. ANSELM'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic congregation of Kampsville was organized in 1877 as a mission. It was attended by Father Otto Freimuth who was the pastor of St. Michael's Church at Michael. During that year a frame church building was erected. It was 75 feet by 35 feet by 50 feet, with a steeple 80 feet high. Morris Fisher of Hardin was the contractor, and the cost of the building was about \$2,500. The land upon which the buildings were erected was donated by M. A. Kamp. He also donated three acres for use as a cemetery. The first trustees were M. A. Kamp, Joseph Hayn, and Bernard Kinscheriff.

The Church was dedicated in the fall of 1877 and the bells were blessed on April 24, 1878. The church was served as a mission by Father Sommers, 1878 to 1892, and by Father C. Johannes from 1892 to 1897. He had the present ten-room rectory built during his stay. On November 1, 1895 he was appointed the first resident pastor. Father DuVal served from 1897 to 1901.

The first parish school was opened in 1898 with the Sisters of the Precious Blood in charge. Father F. X. Sturm came in 1901 and remained for a short time. Father Reinhart, the assistant at Michael looked after the parish until the arrival of Father A. Ulric in November 1902. He remained in service of the parish until his death in 1909. His body was buried in the center of the Catholic Cemetery at Kampsville.

On Palm Sunday, 1909, Father F. Neveling came to the parish and remained in the parish until 1911, when he was succeeded by Father Edward Douglass. During his stay a new home for the Sisters was built and a new building to replace the parish school, which had been destroyed by fire.

Other pastors who have served the church in recent times are: Father James A. Telkamp (1919 to 1922), Father George E. Faller (1922 to 1924), Father A. J. Blesser (1924 to 1930), and Father Jerome Morely, who is serving at the present time. The parish now numbers about eighty families.

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

When the first German settlers of the Lutheran faith came to northern Calhoun, they settled in the Hillcrest neighborhood and in the hills west of the present site of Kampsville. Those settling west of Kampsville built a small church near what is now called the "Hauseman Cemetery". For many years the building remained there and then it was moved to Kampsville (then called Farrowtown). Some of the ministers who served when this building was in use were: Rev. Bremer (1870), H. Reichman (1871-1873), W. Wilkine (1873-1875), Hornbastel (1875-1877, Ludwig (1877-1880), Schaberhorn (1880-1881), Kerstan (1881-1886), Lieberherr (1889-1892).

The present church building was constructed in 1894 during the time that Rev. W. C. Borchers was serving the congregation.

Rev. Kavasch served the church after Rev. Borchers. Others who served as pastors were: Rev. Baumgaertner (1905-1907), Rev. Shultz (1909-1929), Rev. E. Wiedenhoefter of Brussels (1929-1930), and the present pastor, Karl J. Baumgart, who came in July, 1930.

A parochial school was maintained until about 1920. The pastors served as the teachers of the school.

The membership of the church is 260 baptized members, 53 voting members, and 145 communicant members.

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## Churches of Belleview Precinct

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### HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church of Hillcrest was organized July 19, 1897 by J. M. Hartly, a missionary worker, under the direction of the Northern Baptist Association.

The charter members were: Hester Dierking, Emma Likes, Levi Thomas, Emma Thomas, Perry Day, Parthena Foiles, Mrs. S. M. Ash, and William Likes.

Levi Thomas and Perry Day were elected deacons and George W. Trash of Roodhouse was the first pastor. The services were held in the old school building until the present building was dedicated, July 2, 1905. The dedication sermon was preached by Edward Ford.

A Union Sunday School has been maintained at Hillcrest for fifty-six years. John Connell was the first superintendent and Sarah Williams, Mattie Tharp and Josephine Labby were charter members.

The church is a member of the Bay Creek Baptist Association. The membership in 1932 was 132. Rev. Fred Probst of Nebo was serving as the pastor at that time.

The Sunday School has 125 members on the roll, with an average attendance of 68. Floyd Freesmeyer is the present superintendent. The Sunday School has contributed to the South African Missions for many years.

### HILLCREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The church was organized in the year 1860. The earliest members were the Quillers, Martins, and Sudbracks. The present church building was constructed in 1877. The land for the church and the cemetery was donated by Christian Kuck.

The services have usually been conducted by the Lutheran Pastor from Kampsville. Services are held every second Sunday at 2:30 P. M. The membership is small at the present time. Rev. C. Baumgart of Kampsville serves as the pastor.

### LATTER DAY SAINTS CHURCH

This is the only church of this denomination in the county and

possible in this part of the state. The church is located in Howell Hollow, some distance north of the Elm Grove School.

The church was built in 1901 by W. A. Guthrie, Marion Johnson, and Timothy Johnson with the aid of some of the people in the community. The building is 22 feet by 40 feet, and was dedicated in the year 1904.

Regular services are usually held, with W. A. Guthrie serving as the local pastor. The church has about twenty-five members and the Sunday School has twenty members.

### FARMERS' RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ at Farmers' Ridge was organized in 1856 by J. W. Greer and James Burbridge.

Until 1882, the Farmers' Ridge School was used as a place of worship, but in that year the school district was divided and a new school was built at a different site. The church then purchased the old school building and a piece of land on the opposite side of the road from where the school stood. Since the old school building had been purchased at a reasonable price and most of the labor on the remodeling of the building was donated, the people were able to have a building of their own for less than four hundred dollars. The present building was erected in 1898.

The leading members in 1875 were: Samuel Bunn (Elder), James Dyson (Elders), A. W. McConnel, J. A. Bunn, L. E. White (Deacon), G. H. Hank (Clerk).

The present organization is: A. W. Bunn and D. E. Bunn, Elders; A. Battershell and L. C. Turnbeagh, Deacons; D. E. Bunn, Clerk; and A. W. Bunn, Treasurer.

The ministers who have labored since 1875 are: John McIntire, David Foremen, C. H. Maynard, J. W. Miller, Ezekial Burns and Richard Williams. All of these were local men. In more recent times J. C. Roady, T. D. Roady, C. W. Witty, and J. C. Dunn have served.

At the present time Elder Jesse Smythe and Elder John Wilson preach at the church occasionally. Elder J. C. Bunn, now of Winatche, Washington, conducted the last revival, in 1931.

There are about forty members enrolled in the Bible School at the present time. The church membership numbers about 100.

### ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church at Belleview was built in 1900. Father Duval, the pastor of the Kampsville Church, was instrumental in having it built. It is a brick building 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, 30 feet high, with a 60 foot tower.

At the time that it was built there were about twenty families in the parish, but that number has since decreased. Services are now held in the church the first Sunhay of each month. Some of the early members were: J. C. Harrison, Will Osterman, and Mr. Seifers.

### BELLEVIEW METHODIST CHURCH

In 1869 a building was constructed at Belleview that was used as both a church and a school. The Methodist Church of Belleview is mentioned in the Minutes of the 1871 Conference of the Methodist Church. According to the report there were 50 members, 2 churches, 1 parsonage, and 3 Sunday Schools which had a total of 20 officers and teachers, 110 members and a library of 500 volumes. W. W. Smith was listed as the pastor. These figures probably included the Summit Grove Church, as reports made in previous years had listed Summit Grove and had not mentioned Belleview. Since the two churches were not far apart, services were probably held at both points.

About 1893 a Methodist Church was built at Belleview. Some of the first members of the church were: Mary Keightly, Martha Childs, and Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Bennett. The church seldom had a resident pastor but was served by the ministers from Summit Grove and Hamburg, or by local preachers.

### BELLEVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

On the 19th of July, 1920, Brother J. C. Roady and Brother C. C. Hanks came to Belleview and raised a tent and began a series of meetings. The first of the meetings was attended by about seventy-five people. Meetings were held each night for about a month. On August 15th, the night of the last meeting, a congregation was formed and thirty-nine people joined. A number of these were baptized and others came from other congregations.

In this meeting the people decided that a church should be erected. Brother Warren Wilson donated the land upon which the tent was then standing.

The members banded themselves together with the understanding that they were to take the Bible as their rule of faith and practice, and to carry on the work as taught by Jesus through his Apostles. On the records of the church are the names of about ninety members. But some of the people whose names are there have since died while others have fallen away. At the present time there are about fifty members that are in good standing. John S. Wilson serves as the local preacher for the congregation.

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## Churches of Carlin Precinct

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### PLEASANT DALE BAPTIST CHURCH

The church was first organized, in 1870, under the name of the East Panther Creek United Baptist Church. They did not have a church building, so the meetings were held in the school or in the home of some of the members. The founders of this church were



Henry Strungham and William Seago. Some of the early members were: John W. Ellege, Elizabeth Ellege, Charles Matthews, Rebecca A. Thurston, Mary Saunders, Nancy Miller, Matthews Dorset, John Wash, Susie E. Ash, Charles C. Curtis, Nels Tharp, James Tharp. This organization was dissolved at a later date.

Subsequently, in 1897, the Pleasant Dale Baptist Church was organized, the leaders being J. M. Hartley and William Tharp. A building was constructed by popular subscription in 1897. The land upon which the building is located was donated by Turner Lumley. He also donated all of the timber for the frame of the church. He was not a member of the church but one of his sons later became a leading Baptist minister. The church has about thirty members and there are fifty members in the Sunday School.

#### **EAST PANTHER CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST**

A church was built by the Church of Christ in the East Panther Creek District in 1917, but services have not been held in the building for some time. Some of the early members were: Ed Field and family, George Smith, F. K. Ellidge, Floyd and Clem Ellidge, and Rainey Miner.

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### **Churches of Hamburg Precinct**

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#### **INDIAN CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Indian Creek Church of Christ was organized in 1860 by Wesley Miller, E. H. Burns and John J. Greer (grandfather of John S. Wilson). The church activity lagged some during the Civil War, but the church was reorganized in 1869 by the same group of men and many new members were obtained.

The congregation did not build a church at first but used the school houses. They used the old log building that stood at the mouth of the Indian Creek Hollow and when the frame school building was erected some distance up the hollow they used it. About 1885 the members decided to erect a church building of their own. A frame building was erected on the state road just south of the cemetery. The land upon which the church was built was given by Henry T. Crader.

Among the members who were attending the Indian Creek Church in 1885-1890 were the following: Mrs. Silas Wilson, G. P. Kincaid, Silas Wilson, Jr., and wife, Henry T. Crader and wife, John S. Wilson and wife, James Campbell and wife, H. H. Williams and wife, Elmer Blackorby, Sarah Crader, Elizabeth Herron, Abner Gresham, Austin Wilson and wife, John R. Gordon and wife, W. S. Wilson, Henry Crader, Jr., and wife, Isaac Crader, Ira Lawson, Sr., and wife, William Kincaid and wife, Austin Wilson and wife, Mrs. John S. Rosa, Jacob Wilson and wife, and Jesse Wilson and wife.



Some of the ministers who served before the construction of the church building were: E. H. Burns, Henry Mains, Wesley Miller, Mr. Roberts, D. Foreman, John J. Greer, James Sitton, Henry Maynard, Mathew Brown, Ely Williams, R. P. Williamson, and son, Donahue, Mr. Troutner, and John S. Wilson.

Ministers who served the church since the building of the new church were: Henry Maynard, Wesley Miller, John S. Wilson, Henry Brainstritter, J. C. Roady, W. E. Ballinger, and many evangelist who served for just a short time.

Abraham Crader and Ira Lawson served as deacons for many years in the early times. Silas Wilson, Sr., Isaac Crader, and Austin Wilson served as elders. In the more recent times Henry T. Crader, Samuel Wilson, and Jesse Wilson have served for many years as either deacons or elders.

### HAMBURG METHODIST CHURCH

The first church services to be held in Hamburg were probably held under the auspices of the Methodist Church, but facts as to time and place of those early meetings are not available. They probably used the first school building, which was located near the river bank in the southwest part of the town.

When W. E. Barber came to the county in 1863, services were being held. "Religious services", he said in a letter written in 1903, "were held as opportunity offered, but the community that could have services as often as once a month was fortunate. Funeral sermons were preached when a preacher was available, sometimes two or three months after burial."

The school houses of the town continued to be used as a place for church services until the erection of the M. E. Church in 1902. This was during the pastorate of Rev. C. E. Calame. During the erection of the building a debt was incurred and for seven years the people worked to free themselves from it.

On the 29th of August, 1909, the dedication services were held and the sermon of the day was preached by President John B. Harmon of McKendree College. At the time of the dedication of the church the pastor of the church was Rev. C. W. Moorman. The officers of the church at that time were: President of the Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. M. A. Cloniger; President of the Bible Class, Mrs. Frank Rustemeyer; Sunday School Superintendent, Spencer Waldron; Junior League Superintendent, Mrs. B. H. Williams. For many years W. E. Barber served as the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In 1932 there were 120 members in the Sunday School. Mrs. Sterling Varner was the Superintendent. Rev. E. B. Barrett was serving as the pastor. He has charge not only of the Hamburg Church but Bellevue and Batchtown churches.

### HAMBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Hamburg Church of Christ was organized on January 10,

1914. W. E. Ballinger, who lived in Hamburg at the time, was one of the main organizers and he was aided by members of the Indian Creek Church and the Mozier Hollow Church.

An old store building was purchased and remodeled into a church. Some of the first members of the church were: Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Williams, Roy Williams, Mabel Roehl, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. James Charlton, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ballenger, Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Grigsby Campbell, Sadie Waldron, Jennie Howdeshell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Banker, and J. C. Roady.

Some of the men who served as ministers or local preachers were: M. E. Ballinger, John Roady, G. W. Williams, Stephen Settel, and John S. Wilson. The church had forty-four members in 1914.

### MOZIER HOLLOW CHURCH OF CHRIST

Before the church was organized at Mozier Hollow, most of the people who belonged to the Church of Christ attended the church at Baytown.. In 1910 a church was erected in Mozier Hollow. The first members or founders were: Albert Sevier, Abbott Howland, Michael Barnes, Ed Schlieper, and Oscar Crader. The church has about thirty members.

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## Churches of Baytown

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In 1933, we find three churches in Baytown. Each will be discussed separately and in order that the reader might not confuse the groups, they will be numbered in the order of their appearance.

### NO. 1, CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church was organized in the early days, probably as early as the 60's or 70's. They did not have a building of their own, so they used the Fox Creek School building which was in the neighborhood. In 1898, a building was constructed in Baytown.

Some of the first members were: Sam Merida (a trustee), Wm. Trowbridge (an elder and a trustee), Alexandder Crader, Gotlieb Quiller, Wesley Bovee, (preacher), A. P. Zumwalt (elder), Elijah Bess, William Thomas (deacon), Henry Darr, John Wilson, (preacher).

### NO. 2, CHURCH OF CHRIST

N. S. Haynes in his history of the Church of Christ makes the following statement:

"A controversy broke out in the Christian Church at Baytown over the question of the use of the organ in church and over the question of having Sunday School. One group opposed both of these, so they broke away and formed a second church, now called the "Church of Christ".

This was in the year 1902 that this second church was formed.

They built a frame church in Baytown, near the building of the Christian Church.

Some of the members of the Church of Christ were: A. P. Zumwalt, William Trowbridge, Albert Sevier, Sr., and William Thomas.

They hold regular services in the church. John Wilson is the preacher and he visits the church each month.

### NO. 3, CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 1927 a group of members of the Church of Christ broke away from that church and formed a new congregation which is also known as the "Church of Christ". The writer has been informed that the controversy was over the question of women reading in worship.

This congregation has no regular church building but use a dwelling house. They have no regular pastor, the services being in charge of Ralph Kitson, William Charlton, and Val Jacobs. There are about 25 people belonging to the church.

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## Summit Grove Churches

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### METHODIST

The first Methodist Church in North Calhoun was located at Summit Grove. In 1863, H. N. Howell was serving as minister and there were 35 members in the church. The Sunday School had 4 teachers and 20 scholars. They usually had a resident pastor and one or more preachers. The membership increased to 189 members in 1874.

In 1887 the people decided to build a church and a dispute arose as to where the new church and a new parsonage should be located. No decision was reached, so two churches were erected. One of them was built on the ridge near the site of the old church and near the Summit Grove School, while the other church was built to the north and down in a hollow. Only one parsonage was built, and it was located in the hollow.

### PRESBYTERIAN

In 1899, the upper church was taken over by the Presbyterian Church, and services have been conducted by that denomination ever since. The pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Kampsville usually has charge of the Summit Grove Church.

### NAZARINE

The lower church continued to be under the control of the Methodist Church until November 27, 1930 at which time it was taken over by the Nazarine Church. Services are conducted regularly at the church. There are 27 members at the present time, and the Young People's Organization has 24 members.

### HOLINESS CAMP

In June, 1920, a large Tabernacle was built in the Fox Creek Hollow, near the site of the Nazarine Church. The first preachers were: A. C. Zepp and J. W. Cooper.

Before the building of the Tabernacle, the camp meeting was held in a large tent which was stretched on the church grounds. Twenty-three camps have been held to date. The official name of the camp is "Hillcrest Holiness Interdenominational Camp."

## CHAPTER IX

### Transportation and Industries

#### LACK OF RAILROADS

Calhoun County has the unique distinction of being the only county in the state to be without railroads. But a glance at a map of the county will show why this condition prevails. Due to the fact that most of the farms of the county were not far from steamboat landings on either the Illinois or the Mississippi Rivers, the boats were able to handle the crops of the county in a satisfactory manner. Railroad companies hesitated to construct a road because of the hilly and rugged nature of the county, and because of the cost of bridging either the Mississippi or the Illinois River. At the present time the trucks are giving the farmers better service than railroads could ever hope to, so it is not likely that a railroad will ever be built in the county.

#### COMING OF THE STEAMBOATS

Although steamboat navigation began on the Illinois River in 1828, yet we find no record or mention of boats along the Calhoun shore until 1831. It was probably because the early settlers were living back some distance from the river, and no large villages had started near the river. Twichell's Landing was the first stopping place for the boats. The "Utility" stopped there in 1831 after a three day trip from St. Louis. The account of the arrival of the "Argus" in 1833 is told by John Lammy in his short "History of Calhoun County". His account is as follows:

"In the summer of 1833, the Crader family, who were then living two miles north of the present site of Michael, in what is now called Crater Precinct, tell of hearing thundering noises from somewhere down the river, and they were very much alarmed. About the head of hurricane Island they discovered what they thought to be a house coming up the river against the current. When it got closer they discovered that it was a steamboat by the name of the 'Argus'. The Craders helped the crew cut six or seven cords of wood. Young Jacob Crader hauled the wood to the river with a yoke of oxen and a cart. After 'wooding' the boat, the captain took the Crader family on the boat and took them about four miles up the river and back. The captain of the boat made arrangements whereby it was possible for him to get wood from the Craders each week. The price that they received was a dollar a cord."

In 1835 the "Don Juan" and the "America" began making trips. A few years later the "America" was sunk in the Diamond Island Slough (two miles north of Hardin) due to a collision with the "Friendship", a boat that started in 1836. The "America" remained



in the water three or four weeks and was finally pulled out by forty-two yoke of oxen and sixty or seventy men. Most of the men were settlers from the neighborhood.

The freight on these boats consisted of cattle, hogs, corn, and wheat. In 1845 the first grain cradle was used in the county and in 1846 the threshing machine was introduced. After the introduction of these the farmers were able to increase the wheat production.

Until the coming of the hardroads and the trucks, the steamboats offered the only means of getting the produce to the market or of getting supplies from the city. Many of the farmers and their wives would go to the city when their grain or cattle were shipped, and buy supplies for many months to come. During and shortly after the Civil War, steamboating was at its height. Dozens of fine steamers would go up and down the river each day. When the railroads became more numerous, the steamboat business began to decline. Other counties along the rivers did not have to depend upon the boats, but as late as 1925, Calhoun people depended upon the steamboat nearly as much as did the people of twenty-five or fifty years before.

#### A CANAL ACROSS CALHOUN

In the year 1834, J. M. Peck wrote a book in which he described all counties and towns of the state. In his article about Calhoun he tells of a canal that was being planned across the county. He says:

"A company has been organized to cut a canal near Gilead to the Illinois River at Guilford. The distance does not exceed three miles and by tunneling a short distance under the bluff, it is said the work can be accomplished at comparatively small cost. This communication would save fifty miles navigation from the Illinois River to the Upper Mississippi, and as the Mississippi is elevated considerably above the Illinois, it would create an immense water power project,, which is one of the objects of the company. None of the early county records or the writings of the early settlers mention this canal, so it is possible that the company was affected by the Panic of 1837, and all plans for the canal dropped.

#### USE OF OXEN IN THE COUNTY

In the early days of the county the oxen were used for farm work and for hauling grain and logs and wood. One pioneer said: "Ox teams were the rule as horse teams were not considered able to haul loads out of the hills, roll logs, or break new ground". Another said: "The wheels of the wagons used in those days were sawed off ends of large round logs, and nothing but ox teams were known." After the Civil War few, if any, oxen were used by the farmers.

#### THE WOOD INDUSTRY

For the first fifty years after Calhoun became a county, the principal industry was that of lumbering. Mr. Pooley in his book "The Settlement of Illinois", says:

"Calhoun at the extreme southern end of the Military Tract was never thickly settled. The lumbering industry in which most of the settlers were interested, tended to make the population an unstable one. Here we have an example of settlement which is an exception to the rule. Primarily the population was one aiming to exploit the lumber resources."

An early settler in speaking of this industry during the Civil War period said:

"Then nearly every man was in some way connected with or interested in the 'lumber business' as it was called. He was either buying, selling, cutting, or boating staves or cordwood or engaged in getting out and rafting logs. Even the well-to-do farmers would make some staves or cord wood during the winter to haul and sell during the summer and fall. By doing this he killed two birds with one stone; cleared the land and raised some money. Stores along the river usually had a sign reading thus: 'Cordwood on the Bank a Legal Tender.'"

Most of the farmers and early settlers had little money so they would take cordwood, poles, or staves to the merchants who would accept them and give the settler goods and wares in exchange. Thousands of cords of wood could be seen piled along the river bank, together with millions of staves and hoop poles. Sometimes the steamboats would take the cordwood and staves to the market, and sometimes smaller boats or barges would transport them to St. Louis or other centers.

When we read the biographies of the early settlers of Calhoun County we find that many of them worked in the lumbering business for several years and with the money that they saved, purchased land for themselves. They would continue to engage in the lumbering business until they had enough land cleared to begin farming. Others bought land immediately upon their arrival in the county and began to clear the land.

### THE FIRST ORCHARDS

There is some doubt as to where the first orchards of the county were planted. John Lammy in his history says that Judge Ebenezer Smith started a small orchard in the year 1819 on his farm about eight miles south of the present site of Hardin. During the past year, a Graduate Student from the University of Chicago wrote his Master's Thesis on the Calhoun apple industry, and in this thesis he says that the first orchard was planted on the farm now operated by Robert and Albert Meyer, at Deer Plain. Another account, written by Mrs. Caroline Dewey, tells of the first orchard as having been planted in the early 40's. She says:

"Just south of us on the place now owned by C. W. Squiers, then owned by a man named Nailor, was an apple orchard, and I do not

recall where there was another one in the county. I am informed that some of the old trees are to be seen standing there yet (1903), silent witnesses to the confiscation of lots of their luscious fruits; the original agitators of the warfare that some day in the future, was to be fought between the lumbering interests on one side and the combined interests of horticulture and agriculture on the other side. That orchard was the index of the future greatness of the apple in this county. In the settlement of that warfare, the lumbering interests were banished forever from the county, and the apple crowned king."

It is possible that the orchard mentioned by Mrs. Dewey was the first in that community, and that she did not happen to know about the other orchards which were located south of Hardin or at Deer Plain. Regardless of where the first orchard was planted, we know that many trees were planted before the Civil War, and by 1875 the orchard industry had grown to be very important.

### THE MAKING OF BRICK

There were a number of industries that had some local importance at different times in the history of the county. One of the most interesting of these was the making of brick in Point Precinct in the early 80's and 90's. A reporter of the Chicago Inter-Ocean visited these works in 1891 and gives us the following description:

"At a place in Point Precinct called Winneburg, is the Thomas Pressed Brick Company. Just as I reached the works, the "Dick Clyde" (a steamboat) was backing out into the current towing barges of pressed bricks, out of which were to be made the St. Louis Water Works. Five years ago, eastern capitalist found that about a small coal mine known as Thomas', there was to be found five excellent varieties of clay strata. A company was organized and there sprang into existence one of the finest brick works in the country. On account of the choice of shades and the excellence of the quality, an eastern market has been gained whose orders are now larger than can be filled."

For several years after the above account was written, the industry flourished, and then began to decline. This was probably due to a lack of a sufficient quantity of clay to supply the huge demands.

### COAL MINES

A coal mine was started in Point Precinct, near Golden Eagle, as early as 1840. In the year 1882 a mine was being operated in the same neighborhood. But at no time was the mining operations carried on on a large scale. Near Golden Eagle one can still see the small deserted village, once the home of the miners of the neighborhood. At several other places in Point Precinct, mines were opened, but were never successful because the coal was not present in sufficient quantities.

### ATTEMPT TO MANUFACTURE SALT AT GILEAD

Near Gilead is located what is now known as the Great Salt Spring. In 1835, R. S. Quigley took possession of the spring with a view of utilizing it in the manufacture of salt. He erected a huge frame building and brought machinery from Ohio. In order to get a greater water supply, he bored to a depth of 250 feet. The method of boring, as described by a man who lived near the spring, is as follows:

"A platform wheel was built and placed on a shaft in an inclined position. A yoke of steers was placed upon it and tied by the heads. The wheel was then started and the steers would keep tramping. This kept the wheel turning horizontally and that furnished the power that did the boring."

At the depth of 250 feet, Quigley struck water that contained little salt but much sulphur. This made the whole affair useless, and Quigley abandoned the place and moved away.

### THE CORN MILLS

Although milling was not done on a large scale, still it was very important from the standpoint of the settler. The first mill in the county was owned by John Shaw and was located at Gilead. The next mill of any importance was the one built by John Metz, in 1828, at the present site of Brussels. Both of these mills were operated by horsepower.

In 1829, Jacob Crader, Sr., built a water power mill at Cave Spring Hollow, near the present site of Oak Grove. The Indian Creek mill was built in the same year by Samuel Crader and was also operated by waterpower.

The importance of the mills to the settler is told by C. C. Squiers, a pioneer settler:

"There were two or three corn crackers (sometimes called grist mills) and most of them were run by water power, if the ponds did not dry up, which, however they did in the late summer and fall. Then the settlers had some disagreeable experiences. Many a poor man who had a family to provide for, would shell a little corn, put it in a sack, throw over his shoulder, and carry it from three to five miles to one of these corn crackers, only to learn after his arrival there that there was no water in the pond and the mill had shut down. The next thing the man would ask the miller, 'Have you any meal on hand that you can swap for some corn?' Of course the miller would swap and take corn, if he had any meal to spare, but likely as not he could not accommodate the man. In that case the man perhaps could do no better than take his corn to a temporary mortar and pound his corn so that he would have an imitation of meal."



### ESTABLISHMENT OF BANKS

The first Calhoun bank to be established was the Bank of Calhoun County at Hardin. This bank was chartered as a private bank on December 19, 1898, and it was opened for business on February 22, 1899. Elmer E. Williams was the Cashier and is still serving in that capacity. Aloys Bullier and Wm. Fisher have served as assistant cashiers. M. A. Kamp of Kampsville served as the first President of the Bank of Calhoun County, and he was succeeded by Stephen McDonald of Hardin. F. A. Whiteside of Carrollton is serving as President at the present time.

From 1899 to 1907, the bank at Hardin was the only one in the county, but in the next year private banks were established in three other communities. E. E. Williams, the Cashier of the Bank of Calhoun County, was chosen to serve as manager of these three newly established banks. The following men were chosen to serve as Cashiers of these banks: Kampsville, William Suhling; Batchtown, J. F. Tribble; and Brussels, Paul Zigrang.

The Kampsville Bank was reorganized December 20, 1920. Charles Sutter was elected President, E. E. Williams, Vice-President, William Suhling appointed Cashier, and Harry Waldheuser as assistant Cashier. When the Batchtown Bank was reorganized and made a State Bank, E. E. Williams was elected President, and J. F. Tribble was retained as Cashier, with William Zigrang as assistant Cashier. E. E. Williams was also elected President of the Brussels Bank and retained as Manager. Paul Zigrang was retained as Cashier and George Gebben as assistant Cashier.

The Bank of Hamburg was organized May 21, 1907, and the charter is dated October 2, 1907. The first officers of the bank were: J. G. Kinder, President; B. H. Williams, Vice-President; Frank Dirksmeyer, Secretary; and Spencer Waldron, Cashier.

The Hamburg Bank opened for business on October 7, 1907, and closed January 28, 1932. The reason for closing was that the bank was carrying the farmers and apple growers, and the severe hail storm of July 23, 1931 ruined the crop to such an extent that the bank could not collect the notes.

Spencer Waldron served the bank as its Cashier from the date of organization, and Ray De Long served as the assistant Cashier for eleven years.

When the bank closed it had \$108,000 on deposit, and loans that totaled \$216,000.



## CHAPTER X

### Social Life

If we are to believe the letters written by the older inhabitants and tales related to us by our grandparents, the people in the olden days had many way to amuse themselves, and life was not the dreary existence in an isolated cabin, as we often allow ourselves to imagine it was. .

#### DANCING

The great amusement of our grandparents and great grandparents was dancing. One of the old inhabitants of the Civil War days said:

"There were a few days of the year, New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Fourth of July, and Christmas, that we set aside by both old and the young, as a day to be hallowed with merriment and pleasure. Usually on those days a grand ball would be given, and grand it was too. At the home of Antione DeGerlia's in a spacious and palatial hewed log house, on the spot where Paul Godar now lives, and at Hamburg at the the house of Ferdinand Wineland, the grandest of the grand balls were given in those days, and were attended by the best people in the land; perfect order was maintained; nothing that would tend to mar the pleasure of the guests tolerated."

"Dancing was a great sport", says another old settler, "I never attended but one ball and then only a few hours. The houses were too small to accomodate the dancers, and those who were not dancing would stand in the yard around burning log heaps. Sometimes there would be a general fight, and the girls would mix in the fight as well as the men, but 'Still the dance went on.'"

Judge F. I. Bizaillion of Hardin said: "As to dancing, we had them two, three, or four times a week and sometimes on Sunday. Very often the county officials took part in our dances." Another pioneer who came to Illinois in 1839 "found fiddling and dancing the order of the day".

Most of the dances were held in the homes of the settlers. One or two fiddlers and sometimes a third person with an accordian made the music. The type of ancing was what is now called "Square Dancing."

When a group of people came together to do some work, they usually had a dance in the evening. If a man had a great number of logs to be moved, or a barn to be built of logs, he would invite from fifteen to thirty neighbors to help him. In the words of W. E. Barber, an early settler, "It was hard dirty wrrk but it was given in a spirit of neighborly helpfulness and performed in the spirit of fun and frolic. As the forenoon wore on the noise was apt to increase, especially if the whiskey jug was in evidence, as it usually was. When the accommodations permitted, a dance would follow in the evening.

House raisings offered another opportunity to extend a helping hand, and to have a good time. In the same list may be placed corn-huskings and brush-cuttings."

### "NEW YEAR SHOOTING"

A custom that has nearly disappeared is that of "Christmas Shooting" and "New Year Shooting". A north Calhoun pioneer described the custom as follows:

"A crowd of men and boys would collect and form a company, armed with guns, bells, horns, anything that would make a noise, and then they would go from house to house through the whole neighborhood, ringing bells, blowing horns, and firing guns in their march around the house, until at last they would be invited in, and after a social repast of apples, pies, doughnuts, etc., they would move on to the nearest neighbor, missing no one." As a general rule the people of the German Catholic communities did not go around in this manner on Christmas eve, due to the fact that it would interfere with their church duties on Christmas morning. But they did go around on New Year's eve, and cider, wine, and whiskey were usually included in the lists of refreshments that were served.

The custom of going about on Christmas eve has died out in most places due to the fact that Churches and Communities have programs for the children on that evening. But New Year Shooting is still practiced in Richwoods and Point Precincts.

### "THREE KINGS' NIGHT"

Another celebration that is somewhat similar is known as "Three Kings' Night", and is held the sixth of January. Three men of the community would mask and dress to disguise their identity, and in company with the other young men, would call at different homes of the community. Usually persons with some musical or vocal ability were chosen as "Kings", and they would sing or play at the homes of the people they visited. The same type of refreshments was served to the visitors as was served on New Year's eve, and it is said as the evening passed, the vocal and musical numbers increased both in volume and quantity. This custom is usually linked with the German communities and was brought over from the Fatherland. Probably the only community that celebrated this day, in 1933, was Meppen.

### SPELLING SCHOOL

Nearly all accounts of the early days in Calhoun County mention the spelling school. As one writer in the Hardin neighborhood said, "I must not omit the good times we had at the log cabin raisings, log rollings, shooting matches, and so on, but the spelling school was the boss." Another said: "The singing and spelling schools and the debating societies were the only forms of amusements of an intellectual character within the reach of most of the sections."

One of the last of the spelling schools held in Hardin vicinity was held in 1916 or 1917. The pupils of the high school and upper grades spelled against some of the older people of the town, who had had

experience in the spelling schools of the old days. Needless to say that when all of the young people were eliminated, a long line of "old timers" were still standing.

### SLEIGHING

Another form of amusement that was popular in the early days was sleighing. Every farmer had a large bob-sled, and during the winter months, it was in use much of the time. Trips to church and to the stores would be made in it, and in the evenings the young people would go to dances, parties or just for a ride. When the automobile was introduced, the sleds began to decrease in number.

### PICNICS AND FAIRS

Fairs and picnics were held in the county from the earliest times. The Fourth of July was a favorite time for a picnic and celebration. One of the most famous of these was the Centennial celebration that was held in Hardin on July 4, 1876, on the lots just north of the present site of the Hardin High School building. It was at this celebration that John Lammy read his "History of Calhoun County". This was an account of only a thousand words in length, but was very important not only because it was the first attempt to collect some material on the history of the county, but because its author had been an eye-witness to many of the events which he described, and had been personally acquainted with most of the early settlers. Several bands were organized before 1900, and they played at most of the picnics and fairs. A band was organized one summer at Jennings Grove, in Bellevue Precinct, and a young man named William Cody, who was taking care of some cattle for a man in the neighborhood, joined the band and helped furnish music for a picnic. Cody went west that fall and later became famous in the western country. He was known to the people of the west as "Buffalo Bill".

A county fair was organized, and the fair was held at Kampsville and sometimes at Hardin. During the last two years of its existence, it was held about a mile north of Hardin, just south of the mouth of the "Poor Farm Hollow". The last fair was held about the year 1910. The main reason for its failure was the lack of financial support.

### OTHER SPORTS AND AMUSEMENTS

There were a number of baseball teams in the county in the nineties and much enthusiasm was shown for this sport. Another form of sport that was popular was that of horse racing. On Sunday afternoons groups of young men would congregate in different places and the afternoon would be spent in riding their horses up and down the roads.

Skating was always popular and there few places in the county that was over a few miles from either of the rivers, or some bay or lake. On Sunday afternoons large crowds of both young people and adults would congregate. But, like sleighing, skating has lost much of its popularity in the county.

## CHAPTER XI

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### Calhoun County In Politics

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#### POLITICS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

The first election of any consequence in which the settlers of this county took part was the election of 1822, out of which grew the famous Hansen-Shaw election contest. This contested election attracted not only the interest of the state, but the nation, because of its connection with the slavery question. To Calhoun people it is even more interesting because John Shaw, one of the county's most influential citizens was involved in the contest.

On August 5, 1822, an election was held in Pike County (Calhoun was a part of Pike at the time) to elect a member to the General Assembly. All of the people who lived in the territory now called Calhoun had to vote at Coles Grove (now called Gilead). On the day of the election there was some difficulty about the election judges. Some of the people were opposed to some of the judges and had new ones appointed. The result was that there were two voting places at Coles Grove, and when the election was over' two sets of returns were sent to the County Clerk of Pike County. If he accepted one set, it would mean John Shaw was elected, and if he accepted the other set, Nicholas Hansen, Shaw's opponent, would be elected.

The County Clerk chose the set favoring Nicholas Hansen and he was given the certificate of election. Shaw immediately contested the election, and one of the bitterest fights in Illinois history took place.

John Shaw presented much legal evidence to show that he had been elected fairly and that he was entitled to the seat. The House disregarded this evidence and decided upon Hansen, because they said Shaw had not notified him at an early enough date that he (Shaw) was going to contest the election. Chief Justice Reynolds of the Supreme Court of the State gave a decision on December 9, 1822 in which he favored the returns which were favorable to Hansen.

But historians have disagreed as to the reason why John Shaw was kept out of the Legislature and the seat given to Hansen. The Legislature was closely balanced at the time and there were two important questions to be voted upon. One was the re-election of Jesse B. Thomas to the United States Senate and the other was the calling of a convention to revise the constitution of the state. Governor Thomas Ford made the following statement about the election:

"Hansen would vote for Thomas, but Shaw would not; Shaw would vote for the convention, but Hansen would not. The slavery party had use for both of them, and determined to use one after the other. For this purpose they decided in favor of Hansen, admitted



him to a seat, and with his vote, elected their United States Senator; and then toward the close of the session, by mere brute force and in the most barefaced manner, they reconsidered their former vote, turned Hansen out of his seat, and decided in favor of Shaw, and with his vote carried their resolution calling for a new convention."

The newspapers took up the fight of the men, and the factions hurled charges and counter charges at each other. The papers of other parts of the country were interested because the slavery question was involved. The convention question was finally put to a vote of the people of the state and the proposition was defeated by a vote of 6,640 to 4,972. This was the last organized attempt to introduce slavery into the state.

In 1824 the same two rivals, John Shaw and Nicholas Hansen were again candidates for the office as member of the General Assembly. According to the official vote Shaw received 165 votes and Hansen received but 83, yet Hansen was given the certificate of election. Shaw contested the election but the House of Representatives voted in favor of Hansen. In 1825 John Shaw and Levi Roberts were candidates for the office. Shaw received 118 votes to 112 for Roberts, but again the certificate of election was given to Shaw's opponent.

Between the years 1826 and 1840 Calhoun had no representatives in the General Assembly, but this was due to no fault of the people or any lack of interest on their part. Calhoun had been placed in the same election district with Greene County, and at that time there were about two thousand voters living in Greene County and only about two hundred in Calhoun.

By the year 1840, Greene County had been divided and the election district now contained Greene, Jersey, and Calhoun. John McDonald, who had been the Sheriff of Calhoun County, lost Greene County in the race for Representative, but carried Jersey and Calhoun by a large enough majority to give him the victory.

The Calhoun men who were elected to the General Assembly in the period that ended in 1860, were:

John McDonald, 1840-1842; 1842-1844; 1844-1846.

George Pattison, 1849-1850.

William D. Hamilton, 1850-1852.

Henry B. Buckanan, 1852-1854.

In the elections to choose a man for the General Assembly, the politics of the candidate did not mean as much as it does today. The voters had an opportunity to meet the candidate personally and a man might run without saying what national political party he favored. But in the elections in which a president or governor was chosen, the party had more influence. To see the shift in the party affiliations it will be necessary to consider these contests.

The first presidential election in which the Calhoun people took part after their separation from Pike County was the election of



1828. In this election John Quincy Adams received 57 votes in the county to 42 votes for Andrew Jackson. By the next election Jackson had gained strength in the county and carried it over Henry Clay by a vote of 31 to 8.

In 1834, an election was held in all of the counties of the state to choose a location for the state capital. In the election, Alton received all of the 158 votes cast in Calhoun County. It was in this election that the people of the state voted to have the capital moved to Alton, but the Legislature later disregarded the vote of the people and chose Springfield, which had run third in the state vote.

In the election of 1836 Van Buren on the Democratic ticket received 48 votes while the candidate on the new Whig ticket received 53 votes. The Whig party gained strength in the county by the next election and in 1840 William Henry Harrison, their candidate, defeated Van Buren, the Democrat, by a vote of 213 to 133.

The Whig party lost their power by the election of 1844. The Democrat carried the county that year, and in every presidential election from 1844 down to 1920 the Democratic presidential candidate has carried the county.

In 1856, the new Republican party nominated Fremont for president. He received 70 votes in Calhoun, while Buchanan, the Democrat, received 391, and Fillmore, the American candidate, received 163.

Thus as the first period of Calhoun political history closes, we might say that the people took an active interest in politics and were fairly successful in obtaining representation in the General Assembly considering the fact that they were usually in the same senatorial district with counties that had a larger population, which fact would give the candidates from these larger counties an advantage.

### POLITICS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

To understand the feeling of the Calhoun people toward the Civil War is somewhat difficult due to the fact that no newspapers were being published in the county at that time, and because most of the available writings of Calhoun residents living at that time mention little about the conflict.

In the first place there were never any slaves in the county at any time, although a few free negroes did live in the county as early as 1840. In 1848, the people of the state voted on a clause of the new constitution which would have prohibited slave owners from bringing slaves to the state and then setting them free. The clause carried in the state by a 5 to 2 majority, and in Calhoun by a 30 to 1 majority. This would lead us to believe that the people of Calhoun were more opposed to having negroes in Illinois than the other people in the state. But we can not be certain about their attitude toward slavery in the south.

The election of 1860 does not clear up the matter because of the advantage that Stephen A. Douglas had over Abraham Lincoln in so far as Calhoun County was concerned. Douglas had served for a number of terms as Congressman from the district of which Calhoun was a part, and was acquainted with many of the people and the political leaders of the county. Then, too, Douglas was with the party that had carried the county in several presidential elections previous to 1860, and had built up an organization that surpasses that of the new Republican party. The vote in this election was:

Douglas (Democrat), 668 votes.

Lincoln (Republican), 269 votes.

Bell (Union), 66 votes.

Breckinridge, 00 votes.

When the Civil War broke out there were many men from the county that went to join the Union army, but there were others who sympathized with the South. In 1903, C. C. Squiers, one of the oldest men in the county at that time, wrote an account of conditions during the war. Mr. Squiers said, in part:

"The name of copperhead was given to those that aided and abetted the southern cause, by discouraging enlistments, and writing to the soldiers in the army to desert, aiding materially the southern cause by giving such news and comfort to the enemy of the Union as would encourage and prolong the struggle. Such, I claim, is a fair description of the men that merited the name of copperhead in Calhoun during the four years of our late war of the rebellion. The bushwacker or guerilla, while professing to be a Democrat and a southern sympathizer, was in reality a highwayman, and in the stealing and robbing business for the booty there was in it, rather than for love of country or the love of principle. As evidence of their brigandism they came over from Missouri and made raids in Calhoun in which they would steal horses, rob houses of money, blanket, quilts, wearing apparel, and provisions, regardless of the politics of the citizen they robbed. So this last character was considered an outlaw. When one of these raids had been committed, which was always at night, the citizens would gather the next day and hunt them down."

Another writer in speaking of Calhoun at the time of the Civil War, said:

"Her position was peculiarly favorable to the numerous criminal element of the then doubtful Missouri. Her isolated bluffs made a capital place for the bushwackers and horse-thieves. The main stage of operations was at the village of Hamburg."

The war and the bushwackers did not seem to have had much effect upon the election of 1864. The county was carried by General George B. McClellan, Democratic candidate, over Abraham Lincoln, the Union or Republican candidate, by a vote of 562 to 311. In light

of the facts mentioned concerning their attitude toward the war, and also because Lincoln was an Illinois man, one might have expected him to carry the county, but such was not the case.

The following table will show the superior strength of the Democratic Party in the Presidential elections in Calhoun County:

1868	Votes	1904	Votes
Seymour (D) .....	702	Parker (D) .....	815
Grant (R) .....	393	Roosevelt (R) .....	730
1872	Votes	Swallow (Proh) .....	154
Greeley (D) .....	580	1908	Votes
Grant (R) .....	426	Bryan (D) .....	905
1876	Votes	Taft (R) .....	735
Tilden (D) .....	900	Chafin (Proh) .....	64
Hayes (R) .....	411	1912	Votes
1880	Votes	Wilson (D) .....	602
Hancock (D) .....	505	Taft (R) .....	375
Garfield (R) .....	505	Roosevelt (Prog) .....	154
Weaver (Greenback) .....	22	1916	Votes
1884	Votes	Wilson (D) .....	1181
Cleveland (D) .....	757	Hughes (R) .....	1168
Blaine (R) .....	524	1920	Votes
1888	Votes	Harding (R) .....	1367
Cleveland (D) .....	939	Cox (D) .....	703
Harrison (R) .....	589	1924	Votes
1892	Votes	Coolidge (R) .....	1136
Cleveland (D) .....	840	Davis (D) .....	1115
Harrison (R) .....	563	1928	Votes
Weaver (People's) .....	146	Hoover (R) .....	1594
1896	Votes	Smith (D) .....	1551
Bryan (D) .....	1162	Thomah (Soc) .....	31
McKinley (R) .....	795	1932	Votes
Levering (Proh) .....	9	Roosevelt (D) .....	2229
1900	Votes	Hoover (R) .....	1239
Bryan (D) .....	1175	Thomas (Soc) .....	29
McKinley (R) .....	873	Reynolds (Soc-Lab) .....	4
Wooley (Proh) .....	23	Upham (Proh) .....	3

In the period of 1864 to 1902, Calhoun was well represented in the General Assembly. They were represented in nearly every session while in the 36th Assembly, two Calhoun men were serving. The Calhoun men who served in the General Assembly after 1860, were:

John McDonald, 1864-1866 .....	24th Assembly
Thos. B. Fuller, 1868-1870 .....	26th Assembly
Stephen G. Lewis, 1872-1874 .....	28th Assembly
Jos. S. Harvey, 1874-1876 .....	29th Assembly
R. J. Hall, 1876-1878 .....	30th Assembly
Jas. H. Pleasant, 1878-1880 .....	31st Assembly
F. M. Greathouse, 1882-1884, Democrat.....	33rd Assembly
Peter C. Barry, 1884-1886, Democrat.....	34th Assembly
John McNabb, 1886-1888, Democrat.....	35th Assembly

John McDonald, 1888-1890, Democrat.....	36th Assembly
George B. Childs, 1890-1890, Republican....	36th Assembly
Ernest Meyer, 1890-1892, Democrat.....	37th Assembly
Ernest Meyer, 1892-1893, Democrat.....	38th Assembly
William Mortland, 1893-1894, Democrat....	38th Assembly
Chas. L. Wood, 1896-1898, Republican.....	40th Assembly
George L. Aderton, 1900-1902, Republican..	42nd Assembly
Thos. D. Bare, 1904-1906, Republican.....	Senate
Thos. D. Bare, 1906-1908, Republican.....	Senate

In 1900, Thomas Jefferson Selby, the State's Attorney of Calhoun, was elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served one term, and he had the distinction of being the only Calhoun man to serve as a member of Congress. He was also the last man to represent the old Sixteenth Congressional District. In 1902 Calhoun was placed in the Twentieth District and Henry T. Rainey of Carrollton was elected as the Representative. After his term in Congress, Mr. Selby returned to his home in Hardin, was elected State's Attorney, and continued to serve in that office until his death in 1917.

From the standpoint of local elections, Calhoun has usually been Democratic since the Civil War. Occasionally a Republican would be elected, but it would be the exception. A prominent attorney of Hardin, in the early days, was said to have advised a new voter in this manner: "Young man, when you vote, always vote the Republican ticket, but if you run for office, run on the Democratic ticket." In the election of 1920, the Republican Party captured most of the county offices, but in the election of 1928 the Democrats again gained a majority of the county offices. The results of the elections of 1930 and 1932 show that the Democrats have an advantage of 150 to 300 votes in the county elections.

### NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICS

A great influence in politics that is sometimes overlooked is that of the newspaper. The first newspaper to be established in Hardin was the "Calhoun County Union", the first issue appeared about April 1, 1861 with Josiah Woodward as editor. The paper was still being published in 1862, but we have no record of how long publication continued.

In 1870, the "Independent", a Democratic paper, was established in Hardin. Since two other papers were started soon after this date, it is likely that this paper lasted but a short time.

The "Calhoun County Democrat" was established in 1871 and continued until 1876. Albert G. Ansell was the editor and publisher. It was a Republican paper.

The "Calhoun Herald" was started in 1872 by a stock company, with John Lammy as editor. In 1876 the plant was sold to Argust and Keating, and in 1879 Greathouse and Argust were the editors and publishers. James McNabb was the editor from 1880 to 1886.



He sold the paper to T. J. Selby, who served as editor until 1890. From 1890 to 1894 John D. Rose was the editor and publisher. H. M. Cornick was in charge of the paper in 1894 and 1895. Charles Lamar was the editor from 1895 to 1902. H. M. Cornick, publisher of the "Calhoun Times", established in 1901, bought the "Herald" and combined the papers as the "Calhoun Herald-Times". In 1903 Charles Lamar bought the entire plant, changed the name back to "Calhoun Herald" and continued as editor and publisher. After Mr. Lamar's death in 1930, the "Herald" was taken over by his son, C. Fred Lamar, who is the editor and publisher at the present time. The "Herald" is a Democratic paper.

In 1894, Thomas D. Bare purchased the "Calhoun Leader", which had been established sometime before in Hardin. He continued to edit this paper until 1898, when he sold it. In 1901, George B. Childs and Mr. Bare established the "Calhoun Republican". In 1902, Bare purchased his partner's interest and continued to edit the paper until about 1910. The paper was taken over by a stock company and Charles Temple acted as the editor until it was discontinued in 1915.

On the first day of April, 1915, the first issue of the "Calhoun News" appeared. The editors and publishers were C. C. Campbell and A. B. Greathouse. The News is an Independent paper.

All of the papers that have been mentioned were published in Hardin, the county seat. Several other newspapers were started in other towns in the county, but most of them lasted but a short time. One of the most successful of these was the Batchtown "Pilot", which was started in 1880 by John J. Smith. In 1891, he was still publishing the paper.

Papers were also established in Kampsville, Hamburg and Brussels. None of these gained a wide circulation and were soon abandoned.

As will be noticed in the accounts of the different papers, the ownership of the paper frequently changed, and none of the men who served as editors in the early days were men who had been trained in the newspaper work. Most of them were men who had taught school for awhile or had held some political office and then decided to try their hand at newspaper work. Since most of the men were interested in politics, they devoted a considerable part of their paper to political discussion. The political editorial that is now found in the city papers was then found in the county papers. This did much to educate the people on public questions and the attacks of the editors of opposing parties did much to keep the county officials of the times from using their offices as a means for personal gain.

## CHAPTER XII

### "1913—1933"

The last twenty years have brought a remarkable change in the county in many ways. In 1913 there were so few automobiles in the county that they affected it to a small degree. The trucks, hardroads, bridges, high schools, and the World War were still to come. The Calhoun of 1913 differed very little from the Calhoun of 1903 or 1893. Some of the events or improvements that caused the great change in the twenty years will be discussed.

#### CALHOUN AND THE WORLD WAR

A glance at the tables given in the chapter on population will show one that there were more people in the county who were of German descent than all of the other nationalities combined. But when the United States entered the World War, no more patriotic group of men and women were to be found in any part of the nation. All worked together regardless of nationality, religion, wealth, or position to encourage enlistments, aid in the sale of bonds and stamps, and to get funds for the different relief organizations. Calhoun has a record to which her citizens can point with pride.

#### THE CALHOUN SOLDIERS

April 29, 1917—The first Hardin men to leave to join the army were: Paul Aderton, Curtis Dixon, Herbert Rice, Daniel Athy, and Elmer DeLaney. Athy and DeLaney failed to pass the physical examination, and returned to Hardin. Homer Hunt left Hardin on the same day and enlisted in the navy.

May 10, 1917—The following men leave Kampsville to enlist in the army: Arthur Kamp, Claude Armstrong, Clyde Walston, Frank Vetter, John Ritter, Harry Schumann, Obie Powell, and A. D. Kaufman.

June 5—First Registration Day. All Calhoun men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years register in their home election precincts.

June 7—Results of the registration show a total of 702 men. Point leads with 153 persons registering, Hamburg is second with 116, and Hardin third with 107.

June 14—Victor Miller and Charles Pregaldin leave Hardin to enlist.

July 19—Fred Laird, W. T. Jones, and Lee Emerick leave Hamburg to join the army.

July 26—Draft begins. Ninety seven Calhoun men drawn into the army and were accepted by the County Board.

August 9—Dr. Z. D. Lumley offered his services to the army and

was accepted. Myrtle Dierking, a trained nurse, offered her services to the Red Cross and was accepted.

September 13—Three men, representing 5% of Calhoun's quota under the selective draft, left for the army. They were: Andy McDonald of Hardin, Glenn Nevius of Kampsville, and Henry C. Smith of Hamburg. They were sent to Camp Taylor, Kentucky.

September 21—Twenty-eight men leave for camp.

October 6—Fifteen more men leave for training camp.

January 24, 1918—Registration day for Alien enemies.

January 24—Carl Gordon appointed Food Administrator for the county.

February 28—Twenty-seven men leave for Camp Taylor.

April 29—Nineteen men leave for Camp Dix, N. J.

May 23—Forty men leave for Camp Gordon, Georgia.

June 20—Forty-three leave for camp during the entire month.

August 1—Forty-one men leave.

September 5—Calhoun's quota of 100 men leave for Camp Grant.

According to the list given in the county papers, 323 drafted men left the county for the camps. This list is not accurate as some might not have been listed, and then there were men who failed to pass the physical examination and returned to their homes. On September 12, all men between the ages of 18 and 45 registered.

### CALHOUN MEN WHO WERE KILLED, DIED IN CAMP, OR OF RESULTS OF WAR

There are no official records in the county that will show the names of the men who lost their lives. The list below was made after talking to ex-service men from different parts of the county and after reading copies of the Calhoun Herald and the Calhoun News that were published in the period of the war.

Frank Pohlman, Brussels, (killed in action).

Oscar Haug, Brussels, (killed in action).

Orville Sidwell, Belleview, (killed in action).

Henry Schneider, Michael, (died from illness contracted in camp).

Frank Zipprick, Michael, (died in camp).

Joseph Topmeyer, Deer Plain, (died in camp).

Ray Mager, Batchtown (died in camp).

Strawther Harrel, Batchtown, (died in camp).

M. Shopper, Brussels, (died in camp).

Gerherd Hendricks, Brussels, (died in camp).

Clarence Richey, Belleview, (died in camp).

Jos. S. Moses, Brussels, (died in camp).

John Meyer, Kampsville.

### CALHOUN MEN WHO WERE WOUNDED, GASSED, OR .. CRIPPLED WHILE IN ARMY

This list will be even more incomplete because of the fact that

so many of the Calhoun men failed to have their discharge papers recorded at the office of the Circuit Clerk. The county papers and the memory of some of the soldiers must be depended upon in making a list of the wounded.

Aderton, Paul (wounded).  
Bellm, William (wounded).  
Brannon, Walter (wounded).  
Crader, Slocum (wounded).  
Dixon, J. L. (crippled).  
Emerick, Lee (gassed).  
Eschback, Charles (wounded).  
Hagen, Charles M. (wounded).  
Holmes, Harry (wounded).  
Ingersol, Ralph (wounded).  
Johnson, J. A. (wounded).  
Kelley, Edmund (wounded).  
Klass, W. (wounded).  
Klemme, George (wounded).  
Kreid, Charles (wounded).  
Miller, Peter (wounded).  
Osborne, Clifford (crippled).  
Presley, George M. (wounded).  
Snider, George (wounded).

### THE LIBERTY LOAN DRIVES

The first Liberty Loan drive was in June 1917. Calhoun's quota was \$25,000 and the entire amount was subscribed by the banks of the county.

The Second Liberty Loan drive was in November of the same year. This time the quota of Calhoun was placed at \$76,000. The drive was oversubscribed by \$66,550.

It was in the Third Liberty Loan drive that Calhoun made the best showing. Although the citizens and the banks were asked to buy only \$150,000 worth of the bonds, they bought more than twice the amount. The total of the sale was \$304,000.

In October of 1918 the county took part in a drive to raise \$313,000. Again the county oversubscribed her quota.

The Victory Loan drive was held in the spring of 1919, a number of months after the signing of the Armistice. Calhoun's quota was \$168,000 and the people responded by buying bonds to the amount of \$227,850.

Calhoun's record in these drives is remarkable, when we consider the fact that there were counties in this state and all other states that failed to get the amount that was asked for in the different drives.



### THE RED CROSS

On May 30, 1918 the different precincts of the county were asked to raise amounts that ranged from \$600 in the smaller precincts to \$1,000 in the larger ones.

Red Cross sales were held in each of the precincts. Most of the people of the precinct would donate articles or produce that would be sold at a public auction. At Batchtown over \$2,000 was taken in at the sale, and on July 4th, there were about three thousand people at the sale held at Brussels. Over \$6,000 was made and turned over to the Red Cross.

Besides aiding the Red Cross, the people of the county contributed in a liberal manner to the Salvation Army, Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, and other organizations that were doing relief work among the soldiers.

### TRANSPORTATION

In the twenty-year period, 1913 to 1933, there were many changes in the means of transportation. In the first half of the period, the steamboats were carrying most of the freight to and from the county. But the building of the hard road, the bridge, the C. and A. Railroad to East Hardin, and the introduction of the trucks meant the downfall of the steamboats.

In 1924, the Chicago and Alton Railroad completed the branch line to East Hardin. Daily service was started between East Hardin and Carlinville. But the freight department was more important to Calhoun people as it gave the apple growers of the central part of the county, access to Chicago and eastern markets. The passenger service was discontinued in 1931.

The Hardin-Kampsville and the Hardin-Jerseyville hard roads were each completed in 1927.

The people of Calhoun had been talking about a bridge for many years. As early as January 21, 1919 an article appeared in the Calhoun News telling of the advantages of a bridge. It was not until the completion of the hard road to Jerseyville, that most of the citizens gave serious attention to the matter. It was through the untiring efforts of the business men of Hardin and some other communities that the legislators became interested in the matter, and finally appropriated sufficient sums for its construction,

The bridge was completed and dedicated on Thursday, July 23, 1931.. The Governor of Illinois, Louis L. Emmerson, together with many prominent officials, attended the dedication ceremony. The bridge was named the "Joe Page Bridge", in honor of Joseph M. Page, editor of the Jersey County Democrat for the past fifty years.

The bridge is the longest in the state, being 1,728 feet in length. The lift span is 308 feet and nine inches, the largest lift span of this type in the world. It is operated by two motors of fifty horsepower each, and is equipped with a gasoline engine to use in case of emergency. Approximately five million pounds of steel were used in the construction of the bridge, and the concrete work contains about 9,000 cubic yards.

Before the end of the present year, the hard road from Kamps-ville to Milton, Pike County, will be completed. Other roads and bridges are being planned. The day of isolation and slow, uncertain travel seems to be a thing of the past.



## APPENDIX

### IMPORTANT DATES IN EARLY CALHOUN HISTORY, 1673-1863

- 1673—August ..... Marquette-Joliet Expedition land and spend night in what is now Calhoun County.
- 1680—November ..... Indian massacre takes place near the present site of the Deer Plain Ferry, in Point Precinct. Women and children of the Illinois tribe killed by Iroquois.
- November ..... LaSalle and companions stop at the site of the massacre on the day following its occurrence.
- 1800— ..... Federal government expedition passes through what is now Calhoun County.
- 1801—February 3 ..... Territory now included in Calhoun County made a part of St. Clair County, Indiana Territory.
- 1811— ..... The first permanent settler, O'Neal, arrives and settles several miles above the present site of the Golden Eagle Ferry.
- ..... Twenty French families living at Cap au Gris.
- 1812—May 6 ..... Congress passes an act giving 160 acres of land to all who enlist in the army. Land between the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers set apart and was known as the "Military Lands". Territory now included in Calhoun was a part of this tract.
- September 14 ..... Territory now included in Calhoun made a part of Madison County, Illinois Territory.
- 1813— ..... Band of northern Illinois Indians appear near Cap au Gris (southern Calhoun). Attack soldiers from Missouri fort.
- 1814— ..... Indians again appear in southern Calhoun. Black Hawk accompanies Indians. Attack settlers and soldiers in Missouri. No evidence of attack on any settlers in what is now Calhoun.
- 1819— ..... Ebenezer Smith operates a ferry across the Illinois River about five miles below present site of Hardin.
- ..... Ebenezer Smith plants first orchard on farm below Hardin.
- 1821—January 21 ..... Territory now included in Calhoun County become a part of Pike County. Coles Grove (now Gilead) made the county seat.
- May 23 ..... First probate Court to be held north or west of Illinois River held at Coles Grove.



- October 1 ..... First Circuit Court north or west of the Illinois held at Coles Grove, Judge John Reynolds presiding.  
 ..... John, Nathannial, and Comfort Shaw arrive in the county.
- 1822— ..... Johnn Mettz settles at the present site of Brussels.  
 ..... John Shaw and Nicholas Hansen each claim to have been elected to the State Legislature. Contested election. Hansen seated Joshua Twichell and family arrive at Coles Grove.  
 ..... Hansen removed from the Legislature and his seat given to John Shaw.
- 1823— ..... John Mozier arrives and settles at the present site of Mozier Landing.
- 1825—January 10 ..... The lower part of Pike County is made into a separate county and is named "Calhoun". George W. Allen and Gershom Flagg meet and selected Coles Grove as the county seat of Calhoun.
- January 27 ..... In a report to the County Commissioners, Allen and Flagg recommend Coles Grove as the county seat and suggest that its name be changed to Gilead.
- January 31 ..... John Shaw donates 80 acres of land to the county. He also gives 12 lots in Gilead as a place where the county buildings might be erected.
- February 2 ..... County officials elected.
- March 8 ..... First meeting of the County Commissioners at Gilead.
- March 9 ..... John Shaw, Nathaniel Shaw, Pendleton Lamb, Gigelow C. Fenton, and Levi Roberts recommended to the governor as suitable persons to fill the office of Justice of the Peace for Calhoun County.
- March 24 ..... First marriage license issued. Samuel Cresswell and Eliza Ann Hewitt, the contracting parties  
 ..... Contract let to build the jail at Gilead.
- 1826— ..... John Bolter, John Mozier, and Amos Ferris elected County Commissioners.
- 1827—September 14 ..... Nathaniel Shaw appointed County Treasurer.
- 1828—April 14 ..... Nathaniel Shaw appointed County Treasurer for coming year.  
 ..... Ebenezer Smith, Robert Erwin, and William Mettz, County Commissioners.  
 ..... John Mettz starts a water-power corn mill at the present site of Brussels.

- 1829— ..... Jacob Crader, Sr., builds water-power mill at Cave Spring Hollow. Samuel Crader builds mill at Indian Creek.
- ..... First frame dwelling erected by Major Roberts near the present site of Brussels.
- ..... Two of the first schools of the county are in operation. One is Bethel School, west of present site of Bruseels, and the other is Point Pleasant, several miles south of same village.
- 1830— ..... First census of the county taken. Population, 1090.
- 1831—March 9 ..... Nathaniel Shaw appointed Assessor and Treasurer.
- ..... Government report shows presence of post offices at Gilead, Hamburg, and Belleview.
- ..... The "Utility", a steamboat from St. Louis, visits Twichell's Landing. First steamboat to visit Calhoun.
- 1832—December 3 ..... John McDonald, Nathaniel Shaw, and Robert W. Irwin elected County Commissioners.
- ..... New brick court house completed at Gilead. Cost, \$1,600.
- 1833—March 4 ..... John Bolter given license to operate ferry across the Mississippi River at Little Cap au Gris.
- ..... John Stark given license to run ferry across the Mississippi River at Clarksville.
- ..... Dr. William Terry given license to sell goods for one year.
- ..... A company was organized to dig a canal across Calhoun. To be located several miles below the present site of Hardin.
- ..... The first recorded wheat raised in Calhoun.
- 1834—September ..... Election returns of this year show that there were four precincts in the county, namely: Belleview, Gilead, Illinois, and Cap au Gris.
- 1835—March 5 ..... John Shaw given license to sell goods for one year. License fee, \$5.00.
- .....—September 9 ..... Contract let to build new jail at Gilead. Contract awarded to John Huff. To receive \$299.
- ..... R S. Quigley tries to manufacture salt at the salt spring at Gilead. Machinery from Ohio. Plan fails.
- 1836—June 6 ..... John Shaw appointed to act as special commissioner and agent for the inhabitants of the county to sell section 16, which had been given to each county for school purposes.
- 1838—March 8 ..... John Shaw given license to run ferry across river at Hamburg.

- 1839—March 8 ..... Commissioners report shows presence of an indentured servant in the county.
- June 3 ..... Carlin Precinct formed from the north part of Illinois Precinct. The Beeman ferry-house was designated as a place where elections were to be held. The precinct was named after Thomas Carlin, Governor of Illinois.
- 1840—March 3 ..... John and William Beeman given license to operate ferry across the Illinois River at their place of residence in Carlin Precinct
- Jacob Crader, Sr., given license to operate ferry across the Illinois River.
- March 5 ..... Edmund Morris and Cordelia McCoy given license to operate stores in Hamburg.
- March 7 ..... O. W. Bacon appointed School Commissioner and agent for the school funds.
- June 4 ..... Peter Durham appointed to take the census of the county.
- 1841—September ..... County Commissioners are Benjamin Childs, Alexander Hemphill, and Elias Mettz.
- 1842—June 8 ..... John Shaw removed from office as County Treasurer for failure to pay orders or to settle with the court.
- Abel Haper appointed County Treasurer.
- ..... O'Neal, the first settler in the county, dies at his home near Golden Eagle.
- 1845—June 4 ..... Bids asked for a new jail at Gilead.
- ..... First grain cradle to be used in Calhoun on the farm of Jacob Crader, Sr., about two miles above the present site of Michael.
- 1846— ..... First threshing machine in Calhoun was used on the farm of Henry Bechdoldt, north of present site of Michael.
- ..... William Beeman, one of the County Commissioners dies. James Guy appointed to serve as County Commissioner.
- 1847—January ..... Court house at Gilead destroyed by fire. All records appear to have been saved.
- 1847—January 18 ..... Commissioners rent a room from Daniel T Simpson as a place to hold court. Talk of rebuilding court house at Gilead.
- February 23 ..... Commissioners meet and pass resolution to relocate the county seat. They select Hamburg as a temporary meeting place.
- March 15 ..... Commissioners meet at Hamburg.
- March 16 ..... The following persons were granted licenses to operate ferrys: Stephen Farrow, Mary Ann Bushnell, William Chase, John Jones, and Frank Webster.

- March 18 ..... Commissioners select the store building, that had been used by John Shaw, as a meeting place.
- August 12 ..... People of Hamburg present petition asking Commissioners to refrain from moving the county seat to Childs' Landing.
- September 7 ..... The name of the new county seat selected by the County Commissioners was changed from Childs' Landing to "Hardin". It was named in honor of Col. John Hardin of Morgan County who was killed in the Mexican War, in 1847.
- September 8— ..... Commissioners meet for the last time in Hamburg.
- December 6 ..... The County Commissioners met for the first time at Hardin.
- ..... Contract let to build a court house at Hardin. Cost to be \$1,990.
- October 14 ..... Sale of town lots in Hardin. Six and twelve months credit given.
- 1848—March 8 ..... Re-organization of the precincts of the county. The precincts after this date will be Point, Gilead, Hardin, Hamburg, Carlin, and Belleview.
- ..... Catholics in the southern part of the county build a frame church at the present site of Brussels. This was the first Catholic Church in the county.
- ..... Point, Hardin and Hamburg precincts organized.
- September ..... Contractor William D. Hamilton notifies the Commissioners that he has completed the court house.
- ..... Post office established at Hardin. Benjamin F. Childs appointed first postmaster.
- 1849— ..... Bids asked for building of jail at Hardin.
- ..... Post office transferred from Milan to Deer Plain.
- 1850— ..... Work on jail completed. Cost was \$1,275.
- 1851—March 7 ..... William Hamilton appointed special agent to inspect farms which might be purchased by the county for the establishment of a county farm.
- 1852—September 7 ..... Richwoods Precinct formed. School house of District No. 1 chosen for voting place. Carlin Precinct reduced in size.
- ..... Lower half of Carlin Precinct made into new precinct, called Crater Precinct. Named in honor of Jacob Crader, Sr., the first settler in precinct. Home of Jacob Crader selected as official voting place.

- 1860—June 5 .....A committee examined a number of farms  
with the idea of selectinng one as the county  
farm. Buy farm from B. F. Childs for  
\$2,500.
- 1862—December 3 .....Daniel J. Kennedy given job as keeper of  
the county farm.



















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